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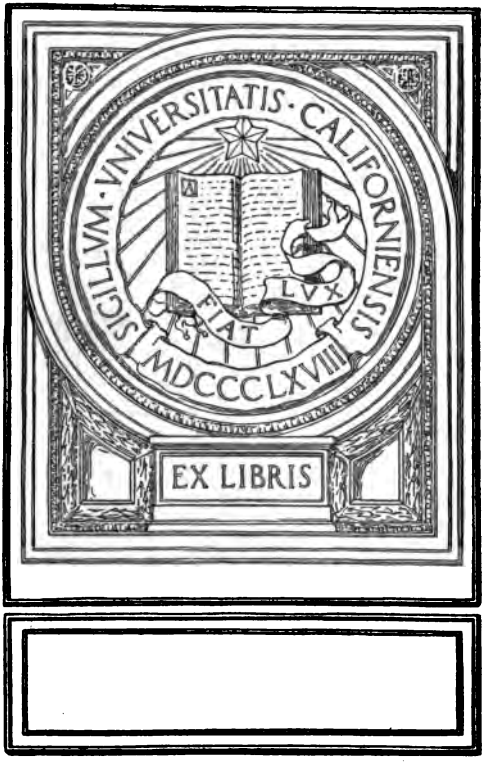
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THE MONASTERY OF MAKERIEF, ON THE VOLGA.

TRAVELS

THROUGH

RUSSIA, SIBERIA, POLAND, AUSTRIA, SAXONY, PRUSSIA, HANOVER,

&c. &c.

UNDERTAKEN

DURING THE YEARS 1822, 1823, AND 1824,

WHILE SUFFERING FROM TOTAL BLINDNESS,

AND COMPRISING

AN ACCOUNT OF THE AUTHOR BEING CONDUCTED A STATE PRISONER FROM THE EASTERN PARTS OF SIBERIA.

BY JAMES HOLMAN, R.N. & K.W.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

"The man who is the lord of the land spake roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country." GENESIS xlii. 30.

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1825.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

TRAVELS,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

Tobolsk—The governor-general—Various parties—Self-sufficient medical man—Climate of Tobolsk—Its productions—The city—The arsenal—Yermack—Cossacks—Uncommon zeal of the governor-general and governor—Forgetfulness of the governor—Ludicrous mistake—Society of Tobolsk—Commerce of Tobolsk.

On arriving within the city of Tobolsk, I drove to the house of a gentleman for whom I had letters. His lady received me with the most polite attention, and immediately sent for her husband, who was from home. When he arrived, they insisted upon my taking up my residence with them. The lady was well acquainted with the French language, and acted as my interpreter with Mr. R——, who

only knew Russ and German. Through this medium I found him a very worthy gentleman, and shall ever retain a grateful sense of the kindness and hospitality which I experienced both from him and his lady.

After dinner I accompanied my new friends to spend the evening at the post-director's of all Siberia, where I had the honour of meeting the governor-general of Western Siberia, to whom I had a letter of introduction. This gentleman at first treated me with cold reserve; but after reading the letter, addressed me in a far more courteous manner; and we entered into a long conversation, the chief object of which, on his part, appeared to be to ascertain the motives for my journey; and which I only admitted to be undertaken from fancy, and under an impression that Siberia was a more interesting country, and less dangerous to the traveller, than it was generally represented. He afterwards made a few common-place remarks, as some great men are used to do when they wish to shew their condescension.

I had the pleasure of meeting, at this party,

two other interesting persons: one a countryman, Mr. S——, who was engaged in the Russian service, and had just returned from an extensive inspection of posts in the eastern parts of Siberia. I had a letter of introduction to this gentlemen from Captain Cochrane; and it afforded me no small delight to meet a countryman at such a distance from home.

> "And as the sparks of social love expand,
> So the heart opens in a foreign land,
> And with a brother's warmth, a brother's smile,
> The stranger greets each native of his isle."

The other gentleman alluded to, was an officer in his imperial majesty's guards, whom I had known at St. Petersburg, and who paid me much attention during my residence in Tobolsk. He introduced me to a brother-officer, who had travelled over the greater part of the south of Europe, and who, on comparing notes, I found was at Rome and Naples at the same time with myself.

Our host and hostess appeared to be very amiable people, and had assembled at their house this evening nearly the whole fashion of Tobolsk, so that it proved a very agreeable introduction for me. There was, how-

ever, a great scarcity of ladies, the latter being only in the proportion of one to four gentlemen. The amusements of the evening were cards and conversation, with billiards in an adjoining room. The governor-general and a few others retired early, but the greater part of the company remained for supper.

On the following day, Mr. S—— and one of the governor's aid-de-camps, dined with us. I found a number of letters waiting my arrival at this place, many of them from my friends in England, which, it may be supposed, in my present situation, in the heart of Siberia, were no trifling gratifications to me.

On the 15th I accompanied Mr. R—— and Mr. S—— to dine with the governor of Tobolsk, whom I found a very agreeable man, although I was compelled to converse with him through the medium of my countryman. This gentleman had previously been director of the posts of all Siberia; in the course of which duty he had hospitably received our missionaries under his roof, when they were on their way to the eastern parts of Siberia, with a view of converting the Mogul Tartars to Christianity.

On the 16th, after occupying the day in writing letters to my friends in England, I passed the evening at the house of a gentleman who was intimately acquainted with the most distant parts of Siberia, and who gave me much interesting information respecting them. This gentleman had discovered a considerable island in the Frozen Ocean, which, with the permission of the emperor, he named New Siberia. He had accomplished the hazardous task of making a circuit of this island, which he effected in sledges drawn by dogs. I examined at his house various skeletons of the heads of an unknown animal, which had been brought from the shores of the Frozen Ocean; I afterwards learnt that they belonged to the sea-cow. He had also some curved horny substances, about two feet in length, which he could not determine whether they were the claws or horns of an incognitum; I was decidedly of opinion they were the latter.

The entertainments of the evening at this gentleman's consisted, as usual, of tea and supper, with cards and conversation. I noticed

one peculiarity, which was the introduction of punch immediately after tea; most of the gentlemen partook of it. It was prepared without lemons, which are, probably, too scarce to be procured in this country. The ladies, and many of the gentlemen, refreshed themselves with different kinds of preserved fruits, which stood on a table in the middle of the room, and which were eaten by each person with the same spoon, a circumstance I was at the time ignorant of, but which I afterwards learnt was a common custom throughout Russia. On finishing the supper, the company immediately began to disperse, although, where there is much etiquette observed, it is usual to stay until the servants have cleared the table.

About this time the atmosphere became very dull, and had a smoky smell, which was attributed to the burning of the forests in the vicinity.

Having passed nearly a week in this city, in which I found nothing very interesting, except its society, I began to think of pursuing my journey eastward. I met with

one gentleman who was anxious to detain me longer; this was the medical man who attended the family of my kind host, and who very confidently assured me, that for the trifling expence of ten roubles, he could, in the course of six months, restore me to sight. He added, however, that if I thought well to make him an additional remuneration, he should not refuse it. These terms were indeed very liberal, but my former experience had exhausted my faith, and I was further prepossessed against him, by his declaring that eye which every other medical man had considered the most hopeless, to be the one that would be first recovered. Besides he was too much of an egotist to allow me to give him credit for any real superiority of talent. His plan of cure was to give internal medicine, and subject the eyes locally to the action of electricity.

The time I passed at Tobolsk did not give me any very favourable opinion of its climate; for although it was the middle of August, we found it frequently cold and rainy. This is, probably, in great measure the consequence of its situation, in the midst of water and ex-

tensive marshes; and hence, when much warm weather is experienced, the miasmatic exhalations occasion fevers, agues, and other diseases. The winter is excessively severe. Game and water-fowl are in great abundance: there are numerous migratory birds, as swans, geese, ducks, &c., and also the double snipe. The rivers abound with the finest fish, particularly the sterlet and sturgeon. The gentlemen of Tobolsk have a singular mode of fishing as soon as the rivers are closed in winter. A hole is cut through the ice in the deepest part of the river Irtish, where the fish assemble in numbers, and are then taken in the usual manner in great abundance, so as to afford a supply for the whole winter.

The city of Tobolsk has few public buildings; the handsomest is the one appropriated to the post department, built of brick, and stuccoed. There is another, named the Arsenal, which I visited; my imagination, however, could scarcely acknowledge it as a place of arms, but rather depicted it as a stable, the floor being very irregular and every where strewed over with hay. Here was exhibited

the portrait and armour of Yermack; the former a miserable daub; the latter consisting chiefly of a chain shirt, so heavy that one cannot wonder at his going irretrievably to the bottom, when, in his last battle, he stepped short of the Tartar king's galley, and fell into water. Whether the history of this banditti leader be fabulous or not, it is at least interesting; and tradition has now established the present Cossacks of Siberia as descendants of his followers; and from the different native tribes to the exile, all hold them in terror. Their children are necessarily all soldiers, and expected to serve from the age of sixteen to sixty. They are valuable troops, so that it is said Siberia would be lost without them. These troops, officered from among themselves, are at the free disposal of the government, who call them out in their turns, those who are not on duty being left at home to cultivate the lands allotted to them, and which constitute the sole remuneration for their services, as they receive neither pay nor clothing. Two regiments of these troops are stationed at

Tobolsk, two at Irkoutsk, one at Tomsk, and one in the government of Crasno-Yarsk.

The streets of Tobolsk, are almost entirely laid with planks. For this purpose, trees are sawn longitudinally in two, and placed lengthways, with their convex surfaces downwards; the consequence of which is, that when the edges are a little worn, the wheels of the carriages break through them, and sometimes get broken thereby.

I had proposed taking my departure on the 20th, but was unable to procure post-horses, in consequence of the governor-general having quitted Tobolsk on that day, and without its being known what direction he had taken. This is his customary manner of proceeding, in order to keep his government on the *qui vive*. In pursuance of this plan, he had arrived quite unexpectedly at Tobolsk. This officer has the character of being extremely zealous in the discharge of his duty; but too rigid to please his subordinates. He has, however, received many tokens of the approbation of the emperor. The governor of Tobolsk is equally strict in

his office, and more generally liked; but, unfortunately, the governor-general and himself do not accord well together; so that he had applied for, and was expecting to be removed to, some other government.

On the evening prior to my departure, I called upon this latter gentleman to take leave of him; on which occasion he took the opportunity of enquiring into what parts of the world I had already travelled. When amongst others I named St. Helena, he exclaimed, that he had a drawing of it, and immediately brought it out from an adjoining room, to enquire whether I thought it a correct resemblance. This is only one of the many instances, in which persons with whom I have been in conversation, have forgotten my want of sight, and presented objects for my inspection, or for me to take from them; and occasionally they have only had their recollection recalled, by some unexpected movement of my hand overthrowing what they offered, as for instance, a cup of tea. Others, recollecting that I am suffering from some deprivation, mistake the sense, and begin to shout at me as if I were

hard of hearing; in short, this feeling is so general, that almost every one who is not intimately acquainted with me, elevates his voice when in conversation.

When I am desired to give my hand to examine any thing by the touch, they take it as if my sense of feeling were deficient, squeezing it rudely, and pressing it forcibly on the subject of examination, as if I were about to ascertain the condition of a bird or beast; whereas my sense of touch is most delicate, and all that I require is to pass the hand lightly over the surface of a body, and then the result is both pleasing and satisfactory.

Another circumstance, which was somewhat ludicrous, occurred during this visit. While the governor was gone into the adjoining room, to fetch his drawing of St. Helena, I was induced to enquire from my friend, who accompanied me, what extraordinary animal it was that was making the singular snoring, or breathing noise, on the other side of him, and which had for some time attracted my attention. Unfortunately it was one of the principal counsellors of Tobolsk, who had a pecu-

liar obstruction in his nasal organs, which produced a singular wheezing noise; besides the gentleman was of a very diminutive stature, so that his head was not much above the level of that of a good sized Newfoundland dog, and I really mistook him for some non-descript Siberian animal. This proves how cautious we ought to be in *speaking in the dark!*

My residence at Tobolsk was too brief to authorize me to say much respecting the general state of its society. That which I fell into was of the most respectable kind and truly agreeable; in short, I shall never cease to recollect the great hospitality and marked attention I received, particularly from my kind friend Mr. R——, and his amiable lady, who, in every possible manner, studied my happiness and comfort. The first society of the place is, of course, composed of the government officers and their families; there are, however, some rich merchants who are permitted to associate with them, and join in the public assemblies.

Tobolsk was formerly the capital of the whole of Siberia. The country has, however,

lately been divided into two districts, Eastern and Western Siberia, and Tobolsk is now only the capital of the latter, including the government of Tomsk and Omsk; while Irkoutsk has become the metropolis of the former. Each of these divisions has its own governor-general.

Tobolsk carries on a considerable trade in native furs, and also with China; but Irkoutsk so far rivals it in both these points, that the commerce of the city is now greatly depressed, although, from local advantages, it must always be considerable, whether we refer to its geographical position, or to the circumstance of its being the channel through which the trade, between Europe and the more eastern parts of the country, chiefly passes. There is another post-road to the eastern parts of Siberia, by which Tobolsk may be avoided, namely by Ishim; this saves about a hundred and fifty miles, and many of the caravans, as well as travellers, avail themselves of it.

CHAPTER II.

Departure from Tobolsk—The Abalak Monastery—The river Irtish—Illness of the postillion—Tara—The Barabinski Steppe — The Tatarsk — The Omm — Cainsk—Russian Naval Officer—Remarks on this route and the climate of Siberia — The Oby — Tomsk—The vice-governor—Description of the town—Society of Tomsk—Robbery of the Author's carriage—Fishing excursion.

On the 21st of August I took my departure from Tobolsk, with the intention of travelling day and night until I reached Tomsk, although at the distance of one thousand miles.

We had scarcely passed the gates of the city, when my postillion communicated to me that he was very ill; this did not prevent us from prosecuting our journey until we arrived at the Abalak Monastery, twenty-six versts from Tobolsk, the principal of which, a respectable looking priest, favoured me with

the following detail of its history. The spot on which it was situated, was, nearly two centuries since, the site of a small village; it happened, however, about that time, that two images, one representing the Mother of God, the other, Mary of Egypt, made their appearance to an old peasant woman, and communicated their orders to take down the village, and build a monastery in the place of it, the whole of which was expressly directed to be accomplished by human labour alone, the assistance of every other animal being positively interdicted. The woman immediately set off to Tobolsk, and on her way was met by the Virgin Mary, who repeated the previous orders. In consequence the head prior of Tobolsk commenced, and completed, the pious work; and the Virgin Mary has resided in the place ever since, excepting that she makes an annual journey to the city of Tobolsk, and is absent from the 6th to the 25th of July, visiting the churches and inhabitants of that place. Her journey, both to and from her favourite monastery, occupies three days, and she is accompanied by an immense concourse of

pious people, who carry with them the necessary provision for their subsistence. Many of these devotees, of both sexes, are said to indulge in every kind of excess; taking up their lodging during the night any where that offers, or even sleeping on the bare ground. They are interdicted, however, from rambling into the woods, and if detected in an attempt to do so, the accompanying Cossacks immediately take them into custody.

The day previous to our arrival at this monastery, its charity-box, containing from fifteen to twenty roubles, the contributions of the pious for the last month, had been broken open and robbed, and they had to-day apprehended a decent looking man as the suspected thief. These receptacles for the charitable donations of the pious passenger, are generally attached to a post placed close to the church or monastery.

After refreshing ourselves with preserves, tea, &c. we proceeded about four versts further, and then crossed a branch of the noble river Irtish, when Mr. S——, who had accompanied me thus far, bade me adieu. Soon

after which, I arrived at the first post-station, having travelled about twenty-three miles from Tobolsk. I pushed forward to the next station, where I could find no accommodation for tea, and was further embarrassed by the state of my Tartar servant, who by his sighs and groans gave me to understand that his illness had materially increased, so that the question began to arise in my mind, whether I might not be compelled to proceed without him, which would have been inconvenient to me, as he had become accustomed to my ways. I determined therefore to carry him forward as far as possible, and conceiving that his illness arose from some of the disgusting trash which the Tartars are so fond of introducing upon their stomachs, I contemplated the possibility of affording him medical relief. I commenced with administering a piece of stale white bread, which I fancied might check his tormina, and this fortunately proved efficacious, without the necessity of having recourse to medicine, for his pains began to subside, and he soon fell asleep by my side in the yamoshka.

The roads were so heavy that we did not

arrive at our next station until one in the morning. At four o'clock on the following afternoon, having advanced two hundred and thirty-three versts from Tobolsk, it was communicated to me that the Governor-General Kapsovitch would overtake us in about an hour; this intelligence made me apprehend that a difficulty would be found in procuring horses, and I therefore stimulated our driver to hasten forward with the promise of some brandy, which is the most powerful engine to operate on these people with, whose only ideas of happiness are purely sensual; like the wild animals they hunt, they shew neither moderation nor reason in the gratification of appetite, which, whenever the opportunity offers, they indulge to the grossest satiety. After this I had the pleasure of finding that I kept pace with the mail, and heard no more of the governor. A little before midnight we again crossed the river Irtish, in company with the mail, at the distance of three hundred versts from Tobolsk; throughout the following day, we proceeded in company with the mail, over good roads, and arrived about three o'clock in

the morning of the 24th at the small town of Tara, and which possessed nothing of sufficient interest to induce me to stay in it; I therefore, as soon as the police had completed the necessary examination of my passport, which occupied about an hour, recommenced my journey for Tomsk. I was, however, the more induced to expedite my journey from the fineness of the morning, and to enable me to pass with the least possible delay the Barabinski Steppe, which all accounts represented as the most noxious and disagreeable tract of country in Siberia.

At the first station from Tara we halted for breakfast. Throughout the whole of this journey my arrangements for refreshment were as simple as possible. Breakfast, from the frequent difficulty of procuring water, or the necessary means of heating it, was generally the more complex meal. The ingredients, as tea, sugar, butter, and bread, I always took care to be provided with. Dinner was dispatched with more celerity and simplicity, as it was only necessary to open the provision-basket, and place its contents on the

table, the accompanying quass being generally served up in a large wooden bowl or a bucket, out of which myself and the postillion were obliged to drink indiscriminately. The Tartar often wanted to prepare dinner for me, particularly when fish was to be met with, but having heard that his countrymen were in the habit of stirring up their cookery with a candle in order to give it *goût*, I could not reconcile myself to take advantage of his culinary talents.

At forty-five versts from Tara, we crossed the Irtish for the last time. At seventy or eighty versts further in advance we began to enter upon the Barabinski Marshes, the very water of which is so noxious as to act as a deadly poison on the stomachs of those animals who drink of it. So frequent were the deaths from this source, that an eminent medical man was sent by the government to investigate the cause, when it was ascertained to depend upon the qualities of a poisonous species of hemlock, that grew abundantly in the midst of it. The fact was proved by direct experiments made on dogs, with water impreg-

nated with the juice of this plant, and in consequence of its admission, wells have now been sunk to furnish supplies of wholesome fluid, and guards placed over the poisonous lakes to prevent cattle from drinking of them.

The above, however, is one of the minor evils of this earthly Tartarus; the insalubrious quality of its atmosphere, loaded with malaria, or miasmatic impregnation, is not only abundantly productive of typhus and intermittent fevers, but gives rise to a disease peculiar to this horrid Steppe. This is a tumour, that commencing on some part of the head, but more commonly on the cheek, continues to enlarge until it bursts and frequently proves fatal.

This district gives birth also, to immense swarms of poisonous flies, and other insects, that almost literally overwhelm the unfortunate subject exposed to their attack; they penetrate into the mouth, ears, eyes, or any part that is not carefully guarded against them; the irritation of their bites is so great, that the face of the traveller requires to be covered with gauze, to protect him from serious in-

jury. Fortunately at the time of my journey, the summer was far advanced, and the more dangerous season past; and besides, I had the advantage of cold and wet weather in passing the worst part of the Steppe. I experienced, however, quite sufficient to convince me, that the details of other travellers with respect to this country were by no means fabulous.

About midnight I reached a station to which a postmaster was attached, and where, notwithstanding the information I had received, I contrived to enjoy my favourite beverage—tea; after which I recommenced my journey, in the midst of a heavy rain, through this dreary pestilential country—a country so ungenial as to be only inhabited by wild animals, reptiles, and a few sickly Tartars, and which my imagination, excited by the accounts it had previously imbibed, did not fail to represent to me as the counterpart of the territory of the baleful Upas itself.

I was told that it would take me three days to get over the Barabinski Steppe, and that, in addition to the risk of ague, fever, of being poisoned, or stung to death, there was no little

chance of being robbed and murdered; but I had determined not to allow my progress to be obstructed by the anticipation of evil.

On Monday, the 24th, at four in the morning, we crossed the river Tatarsk. At ten o'clock, to my great comfort, the weather cleared up, and a brisk wind, aided by the rays of the sun, soon rendered my pavoshka once more dry and comfortable. At eleven we arrived at a post-station, where we were detained an hour by the repair of a wheel, during part of which time I amused myself in examining a singular wooden cradle, that was suspended by a cord from the ceiling of the room, with a child asleep in it. It appeared by no means a place of safety for its little tenant, as I was informed that the children not unfrequently contrive to crawl out, and injure themselves materially by the consequent fall.

At half after two we crossed the river Omm, and soon after entered the insignificant town of Cainsk, distant about nine hundred and fifty versts from Tobolsk. Here the posts from Tobolsk and Irkoutsk arriving at

the same time, I was detained two hours and a half before horses could be procured. After this we had a dreary and heavy journey to the next station, where I was detained again for as long a time. I was fortunate, however, in meeting with unusual civility and attention from the postmaster and his wife: the latter I afterwards learnt had the misfortune to be nearly as blind as myself, so that I was indebted to her sympathy and a good heart, for the kindness with which she treated me. The accommodations of the house were by no means in the first style of comfort: the first room I was taken into, was too cold; the next, a small one, crowded with company, and too warm and odorous to be agreeable. The party were variously occupied in eating, drinking, talking, and sleeping; the latter of which employments I detected by accidentally taking hold of a man's great toe who was lying at the side of me.

We reached our next station at two in the morning, where we were again detained for want of horses, the mail-cart having preceded and anticipated us in this point. It rained so

heavily, that I preferred remaining in my carriage during the whole of our detention: in short, this was one of the worst nights I had yet experienced, the rain falling in torrents; the effects upon the road were such, that our horses could only proceed at a foot-pace, for it was like wading through a continued river.

What, perhaps, contributed to our slow progress, was the compassion I took on my postillion, in permitting him to occupy a place by my side in the pavoshka, the snugness of which rendered the rogue not a little torpid; so that, instead of bustling about to expedite our progress, or procure horses, he would content himself with giving his orders from his coverture. At length, however, I was obliged fairly to turn him out; after which we sensibly got on better. As the morning advanced the sun broke forth, and we felt revived by the prospect of a more comfortable journey. At seven o'clock we arrived at a post-station, where we procured a comfortable breakfast, and I had the advantage of the ordinary ablutions, &c. for my comfort and refreshment, and at the same time dried my

wet clothing. After this we travelled with comparative satisfaction through the remainder of the day, being the fifth from our leaving Tobolsk, without any thing of particular interest occurring.

On the 27th, soon after midnight, we arrived at a station where a Russian officer was resting for the night, who had the command of a body of soldiers that had been ordered from Silinginsk, in the eastern parts of Siberia, to leave a small detachment at every other station of the road, for the purpose of guarding the exiles when on the march. I was acquainted with this gentleman's brother, and had been desired to make myself known to him; but, as he was in a sound sleep, I did not think it right to interrupt his repose for the momentary gratification of introducing myself; and as I was anxious to get over the Steppe as rapidly as possible, I determined not to suspend my journey until morning. I therefore stimulated my lazy driver and postillion to hasten our departure.

At the village where I stopped to dine, a person introduced himself to me, who at-

tempted, in the English language, to explain that he had served many years in the Russian navy, in which he had attained the rank of captain, and been in England. I did not, however, learn, nor endeavour to ascertain, the causes which had made him a resident of this dreary part of the world, and which undoubtedly had not been a voluntary selection of his own. He appeared, poor man! to take great interest in his short converse with one whose congeniality of profession reminded him of early associations, and evinced a superiority of intellect and feeling far above the level of the people by whom he was surrounded.

My fresh provisions and white bread being now wholly expended, I had recourse to my smoke-dried tongue, and which I ate with the black or rye bread of the country; this I found unusually good and palatable, so that I was induced to lay in a stock of it at this place; for I well knew that, in general, it is so heavy and gritty as to require nearly the stomach of an ostrich to digest it.

At six o'clock we changed horses at a sla-

boda or village, with a church attached to it: from this place the roads proved excellent. At eight we took tea at a station twelve miles on this side the river Oby, and which is considered the boundary of the Barabinski country. I was, now, however, out of its most unwholesome part, and had the gratification of finding myself in good health; for which I was possibly not a little indebted to the heavy rains that had been falling, and which prevented the usual rapid decomposition of animal and vegetable matters.

The following quotation respecting this part of Siberia, will explain the nature of the country which I am now traversing.

" Between the Oby and the Irtish and the Altay Mountains, runs a very extensive and elevated plain, called the Barabinsaia Steppe, or the Deserts of Baraba, of which the northern part is capable of being submitted to agriculture, but the southern is a barren desert, covered with sand and moors. The country between the Oby and the Yenissey is chiefly forest land, while that beyond the

Yenissey is wholly covered with impervious woods, as far as the lake Baikal; but every where the soil is fruitful. The districts beyond the Baikal are surrounded by high ridges of mountains. Further towards the east the climate of Siberia shews itself, arrayed in all the rigour of frost: the summers become shorter, the winters are long, and all is lonesome, and replete with gloom.

"The unusual cold of this part of Siberia is to be attributed to its frequent bogs, impregnated with nitre, and overspread with immense forests; to the great elevation of the land, evident from the long course of the rivers of the country, most of which empty themselves into the Frozen Ocean, and to its sloping towards the north, where the sharp winds from that quarter meet with no obstacle. To these causes may be added the insulated position of the country, environed by cold seas, and the height of the elevated land of central Asia, which, with the triple Alps of Thibet, of the country of the Kalmucs, and of Mogolistan, effectually interrupt the

influence of the southern gales."—*Smith's Modern Geography.*

About midnight I crossed, by means of a raft, the largest river of Siberia, the famed Oby, and which abounds with the finest fish in the world, particularly the sterlet. At this point the river is only a mile in breadth; it widens, however, astonishingly as it approaches the Frozen Ocean.

We continued our journey throughout the following day without any material occurrence. It was now the eighth day from my leaving Tobolsk, during which our journey had been pursued incessantly, through some of the most desolate and insalubrious tracts in the known world; and yet I find myself in excellent health, and have not once experienced *ennui*, or regretted the undertaking so arduous a task. I must, however, candidly admit, that I have derived little gratification from the external objects that presented themselves, and am indebted to the resources of my own mind for the interest I felt; and in particular the contemplation of future plans, as well as of the satisfactory progress I had al-

ready made with regard to my present ones, which others had so often deemed impracticable.

These contemplations delightfully beguiled the time until I arrived on the banks of the Tom, in the immediate vicinity of Tomsk, where I proposed to rest for a few days, previous to continuing my journey farther eastward, and where I arrived at eight in the evening.

On application to the police, I received a billet for a house in its neighbourhood, and immediately proceeded to my quarters. My reception here by no means prepossessed me favourably. On entering the yard, I was saluted by the barking of a number of dogs, the whole of whom, together with several idle or curious persons who belonged to the house, followed me to the very door of my apartment. This latter place at once impressed me as destitute of comfort and cleanliness, for I was sensible that its atmosphere was by no means the purest in the world; nor could I move in it without danger, a large beam running across it at the height of about

five feet from the floor. The furniture consisted of a small ricketty table, with a loose top to it, and one wooden chair; and there was a recess planked over, for the reception of a bed, which necessary accommodation was entirely wanting; I had, however, my own mattress and shoub as substitutes; and these were the only bedding I could raise, after a weary journey of more than a week. It may be imagined that I slept soundly; yet, notwithstanding, I awoke at my accustomed hour, and found myself quite re-invigorated and in good health. On this occasion my Tartar postillion was permitted, for the first time, to repose on the floor in the same room, where he slept so profoundly, that I had considerable difficulty in awakening him in the morning.

Having taken my breakfast, I commenced my walks through the town, and waited upon the vice-governor, who immediately invited me to spend the day with him. After dinner a gentleman accompanied me to the Summer-Garden, the only promenade of the place, and

which has an assembly-room attached to it, where the respectable inhabitants enjoy cards and dancing every Sunday evening during the summer. This garden is delightfully situated at one extremity of the town, and commands a fine view of the surrounding country, with the river Tom winding through it. We found here only a lady and her two daughters, who were occupied in gathering mushrooms.

The only persons of the governor's family who could speak French were his two daughters, both very amiable young women: through this agreeable medium I had to support my conversation with papa and mamma. The amusements of the evening were conducted upon a similar principle to what I had been habituated to at St. Petersburg and Moscow, so that it would be superfluous to detail them.

The contrast between the elegant refinement of the governor's house and my own miserable apartment was so obviously great, that, on my return home, I could not avoid being sensibly impressed by it, so as to find a

temporary gloom cast over my mind; and perhaps my perceptions of its incommodiousness were, on the preceding night, diminished by the incessant fatigue I had been exposed to, and which led me to regard with a degree of satisfaction any place in which I could find repose.

The town of Tomsk being very uninteresting, I spent the morning of the 30th in writing to my friends; after which I had again the honour of dining with the vice-governor, who very kindly sent his equipage for me.

Tomsk is by no means ill situated, and has some good streets, which are planked for the accommodation of foot-passengers, consisting chiefly of the lower classes of people, the more respectable ones, or those who can afford to keep an equipage, seldom condescending to walk. The expence of a carriage here is trifling, in comparison with the same in European Russia, although I do not feel able to state the rate. The town is abundantly supplied by nature with the more important necessaries of life, as meat, fish,

and fowl; also with wax, honey, cedar-nuts, and various other articles.

The following day was Sunday, and having a particular desire to witness the manner in which that day is passed in this country, I availed myself of the obliging offer of a gentleman to conduct me through its various ceremonies and amusements. The first point we made was the governor's, where it is customary for all officers to pay their respects on this day at nine in the morning; after the requisite number of bows and other compliments, the same mark of attention was paid to the vice-governor; we then went to church to hear mass performed, which being concluded, we returned to the vice-governor's, where a kind of second breakfast was provided, consisting of fish, cheese, wine, brandy, &c. A greater part of the company now sat down to cards, until two o'clock, when the whole accompanied the vice-governor to dinner at the president's of one of the courts, whose names-day it happened to be; and where I could not avoid noticing as a novel custom, that our host and his lady, instead of partici-

pating in the feast, continued during the whole of dinner walking round the table, with a view, of seeing their guests properly attended to. The dinner was very sumptuous, as I counted not less than six different kinds of roasted meat. On rising from the table we returned to the drawing-room, where coffee and preserves were offered to us. At five o'clock the party retired to their respective homes, for two hours, for the purpose of enjoying a siesta; after which we returned to our liberal host's, who throughout the evening presented us with wine, punch, tea, and various fruits and preserves, his guests occupying themselves with cards, dancing, or conversation. At eleven o'clock the last supply of refreshments was brought in; soon after which the party broke up.

On the succeeding day, September 1st, I had the honour of an invitation to dine with the acting governor, who was president of one of the courts of judicature; after partaking of his hospitality, I spent the evening at the vice-governor's, in whose family I was now, as it were domesticated.

In the course of the evening my postillion

came to communicate that some persons had, during the preceding night, broken through the inside of my pavoshka, into a case at its back part, and taken therefrom a copper tea-kettle and some pewter plates, which had carelessly been left in it; they had also carried away the whole of the lining and leathern pockets of the equipage. We were told also, that the house of a tradesman had, during the same night, been entered through its roof, and the owner so injured as to have been left for dead, as well as his wife, who, through violence, had been compelled to point out their store of money, the whole of which, to the amount of sixty roubles, was of course carried away.

On this occasion my postillion made application to the police, who engaged to investigate the affair; to enable them to do which, the clerk made entry of all that he could communicate respecting it; this being done, he was desired to state the amount at which he estimated my loss, and which he rated at thirty roubles; "then," replied the officer, "you must pay me a fee of thirty copecks." I am

afraid this mode of exacting recompence for the discharge of a public duty is not confined to Siberia. Notwithstanding this process, I never recovered any part of my property.

On the 2d, the vice-governor made up a party to accompany him on a fishing excursion to the Tom, at the distance of two or three miles from the city. We here found a tent provided with a variety of refreshments, and where many of the company immediately sat themselves down to cards, or regaled themselves, instead of participating in the express diversion of the day. At length we returned to the vice-governor's, where the fish, that had been taken, contributed to our supper, being now seen for the first time by numbers of those who had gone out for the express purpose of catching them.

The time I had allotted for my sojournment in Tomsk, had now expired, and on the following morning I took leave of the hospitable friends from whom I had received such extraordinary attentions, with feelings of sincere respect and the warmest gratitude. Nor were they unmindful of my future comfort, as the vice-

governor's amiable lady took care to supply me with an ample store of provisions, and particularly white bread and butter, articles that are only to be met with in the private families of this country.

During our stay at Tomsk my postillion had been confined with a severe inflammation of his eyes, for which I had ventured to prescribe, and with such success that he felt himself now able to recommence his journey.

CHAPTER III.

Departure from Tomsk—Numerous peasants' dogs—The river Tchoulin—Atchinsk—Crasno-Yarsk—Polite attentions of the Governor—The Emperor's names-day—Description of the town—The government of Crasno-Yarsk—Yenesseisk—Scarcity of medical men in Siberia—Canskoi—Biriousssa—The den of thieves—Siberian banditti—Arrival at Irkoutsk.

On the 3d of September I recommenced my journey eastward, with the intention of next reaching Crasno-Yarsk, the capital of the government of that name, and which was distant about four hundred miles from Tomsk, and where I proposed to rest a few days on my way to Irkoutsk. After my late formidable journey from Tobolsk, the present appeared comparatively an insignificant one.

I left Tomsk with the most favourable weather, and the best driver and horses I had met with in any part of Russia, and the roads being

good, reached the first station with much ease and expedition. The horses proved to be the same as had the day before taken me to the fishing-party, and were then remarked to be superior to any that were with the private equipages. The post-station at which I stopped to dine, although in the very centre of Siberia, was also the cleanest and most comfortable one I had met with during my whole journey.

These prospects, however, were too good to last long. In the course of the afternoon, the head of my pavoshka worked loose and partly fell in, and, as we could neither meet with carpenter or blacksmith, my Tartar was obliged to undertake the repair, when his bad eye necessarily becoming exposed to the sun, it had the effect of materially aggravating the inflammation, which I had apparently cured before setting off from Tomsk. At eight in the evening, when about sixty miles from Tomsk, we crossed a small river, and soon after arrived at a station to which a postmaster was attached, and where I found every convenience for tea. My experience had by this

time taught me, that those post-houses where no postmaster was to be found, are generally destitute of every accommodation for the traveller, and that we also there experienced much greater delay in effecting our change of horses, the superintendence being entrusted to the oldest driver, whose authority with his brother peasants is not sufficient to command much attention. The postmaster is not only provided with a tea-urn, but being generally selected from the government postillions, and wearing an uniform, is a man of importance in the eyes of these fellows.

Throughout the following day we prosecuted our journey over good roads, and in a satisfactory manner. I had now a confirmation of a fact that I had before noticed, that the Siberian peasants keep a vast number of dogs, whose howlings, on entering a village, never failed to salute my ears; probably they are intended as a protection against both man and beast.

On the 5th, at seven in the morning, we crossed the river Tchoulin, and arrived at the small town of Atchinsk, in the government of

Crasno-Yarsk, which we had just entered. This is a place of much importance, as being the point of embarkation for goods from the eastern parts of Siberia and China to the western parts of the Russian empire. The line of communication is as follows:—The barges pass down this river (the Tchoulin) into the Oby, from thence into the Irtish, and from the latter into the Tobol. The goods are now landed at Tobolsk, and after a comparatively short land carriage over the Ural Mountains, are again re-embarked on the Tchoussovaia, at Bilinbaefskoy, about thirty-five miles from Ekaterinburg, after which there is a free water conveyance to St. Petersburg, and some other parts of the empire.

Before reaching the station beyond Atchinsk the roads became rough and hilly, and I availed myself of the opportunity of walking up the hills behind the carriage; for confined in my pavoshka, I felt that additional exercise would be both agreeable and advantageous. The Tartar seemed to be of the reverse opinion, at all events I could never get him to walk unless by compulsion. About this time we met a

caravan, consisting of a long train of telegas, each drawn by a single horse, and loaded with chests of tea, which had been brought from the Chinese frontier.

On the 6th, when about two stations from Crasno-Yarsk, it began to rain heavily. We had now descended from the hilly country, and were proceeding along good and level roads to that town, where we arrived about eight o'clock in the morning. I immediately waited on the governor, who received me very politely, and ordered me good quarters at the house of a respectable merchant, who paid every attention to my comfort and accommodation, notwithstanding he neither had to expect nor would he take any remuneration for his trouble. I afterwards spent a most pleasant day at his excellency's, and was particularly gratified to find there a young English lady, who was engaged in the instruction of the younger branches of the family, and who appeared to be much estimated by both the governor and his lady. I had the pleasure of passing the greater part of my time at Crasno-Yarsk in this amiable family, and cannot ex-

press too forcibly my sense of the kind attention which they paid me.

On the following day we had a party at dinner at this gentleman's, after which we were entertained with some good singing, but very indifferent music, and the evening passed off with cards and dancing. Monday brought with it a repetition of these amusements, the entertainment being given in honour of the English lady's birth-day. The governor's lady was, however, too indisposed to be present, and in two days afterwards presented her husband with a daughter.

The governor, on the Tuesday, most obligingly submitted to my inspection his cabinet of curiosities, comprising a large collection of Tartar dresses, weapons, and armour, as also many curious remains that had been dug up in different parts of his government; amongst the rest, metal vases, which had probably been the depositaries of the ashes of the great and powerful of their day; also hatchets of copper and stone, knives, arrow-heads, &c. He had various specimens of wood in a state of petrifaction, an effect which many of the

rivers of this country are found to produce on any soft substance that has been long immersed in their waters. His excellency did me the favour to present me with a Tongoose dress, and a quiver, containing some Indian arrows.

The 11th being his imperial majesty's name-day, was observed with all due honour. The governor gave a splendid dinner on the occasion, which was served up in the council-house, no apartment in his own residence being sufficiently capacious to accommodate the party, which consisted of sixty persons, comprising all the government officers. The health of the emperor was first drank in champagne, and then that of the king of England, which was intended as a compliment both to our nation and myself: these were followed by the healths of the principal officers in Siberia. This dinner lasted about two hours, and was enlivened by music and singing. In the evening the town was illuminated for the first time in its history; and as the manner of effecting this, according to the Russian mode, may not be generally

known, I shall describe it. Only one candle was exhibited in each window, while on the railing in front of the houses, earthern dishes, filled with oil, were placed at regular distances, in the centre of each of which was a large wick of rope or matting, that gave out a considerable flame.

On the following day the vice-governor kept his names-day, when we had an invitation to a dinner, and to a ball in the evening. At the former our host, according to the Siberian custom, instead of sitting down at the head of his table, kept perambulating it, to see his friends served; his lady, however, took her place with the guests.

The town of Crasno-Yarsk is at present of inconsiderable magnitude, consisting of only one good street, built on a low sandy spot, near the river Yenesai. It may be considered, however, as in its infancy, the government of which is the capital, having only been established within the last twelve months. There are many new houses already in considerable progress. It has, according to the Russian fashion, a square for shops, but at present no

market, the necessary provisions being carried round to the different houses. As the present governor is a man of intelligent mind, and devoted to the interests of his government, there can be no doubt that a few years will effect important improvements in this district.

Although this town possesses in itself little to interest the traveller, it is the centre of a government, which exhibits a great variety of climate, soil, and natural productions; and hence it is the chief spot from which information respecting these points can emanate. This government was previously included in that of Tomsk, from which it has lately been detached; and, although the smallest in Siberia, extends, from north to south, nearly fifteen hundred miles, from the Frozen Ocean to the Altay Mountains, including almost every diversity of climate, its southern inhabitants, like the patriarchs of old, dwell in tents, and, with their herds and flocks, lead a wandering life, changing from place to place, as circumstances may direct or Providence guide them; those who reside in the centre have fixed residences, and enter into all the pursuits of agriculture

and traffic; while the more northern tribes are in a state approximating to savage wildness, and evince all the cunning and ferocity of their native wolves. The destruction of the latter constitutes their chief occupation and support; and after thus supplying themselves with clothing, the superfluous produce of their toil is disposed of to the Russian merchant, chiefly in barter for knives, tobacco, beads, or such other necessaries, or luxuries, as their own country denies, or savage taste directs. This country is admirably adapted for commerce, the fine and majestic river Yenessai running through its centre, from south to north, and pouring its voluminous waters (the accumulation of numberless tributary rivers) into the Frozen Ocean. Its horses and horned cattle are also more esteemed than those of any other part of Siberia.

There is another town in the government, of much greater antiquity and magnitude than Crasno-Yarsk, containing thirteen churches, and a majority of the mercantile men of the country. It is named Yenesseisk, and is

situated on the Yenessai, about two hundred miles to the north of Crasno-Yarsk.

I could not avoid remarking the great scarcity of medical men in Siberia, and the farther I advanced eastward, the more rare did they become. There was only one in this town, a young man of three and twenty, who had just completed his studies at Moscow; he was also said to be the only one in the whole government.

It appears highly desirable that more of the faculty should be induced to settle in this country, not only for the professional, but other scientific pursuits which they would be likely to embrace; and if Russia does not produce a sufficient number of native practitioners, there can be no doubt that plenty of Germans would be found to embrace the speculation, provided a reasonable encouragement was given them.

It is estimated that Russia requires about thirteen thousand medical men, but that there are not more than five thousand actually engaged in the public service and general practice.

At eight o'clock on the morning of Saturday, the 13th, I left Crasno-Yarsk, and immediately crossed the rapid Yenessai, at this place about three quarters of a mile in breadth. Our road was indifferent and very hilly, with frequent rough wooden bridges extended over ravines. After travelling the whole day and night, we arrived at five o'clock in the morning of the 14th at Canskoi, a small town situated on a river of the same name, in which many petrified substances have been found. A few miles in advance of this place we traversed a marsh, the road over which consisted, for nearly two miles, of trunks of trees, the effect of which upon myself, as communicated through the medium of a small carriage without springs, may be better conceived than described. I was almost literally shaken to a mummy. We were also to-day much incommoded by flies and dust. About three in the afternoon we crossed the river Birioussa, and soon afterwards arrived at the post-station of that name, where I found a civil and obliging postmaster.

At the next station, while my postillion was

conducting me into the post-house, some of the drivers, who were standing before the house, stole out of the carriage my coffee-pot and a knife. A considerable altercation ensued between my Tartar and the driver, whose place it was to protect the luggage, and who, notwithstanding his protestations to the contrary, I have every reason to believe was the thief, as he only could be likely to know where the basket was deposited. This loss would have been trifling could the articles have been replaced, but it was impossible, and I frequently afterwards sensibly felt the deficiency.

At the next station I was ushered into a room which impressed me with the character of a den of thieves; nor do I believe the supposition was far from the truth; the place was full of fellows of the most ruffian-like description. The furniture of the room seemed to correspond with its inhabitants, every thing being crazy and disgusting in the extreme, with dirt and rags lying in all quarters of the apartment. It was long before I could procure water for my tea, and at length was

obliged to boil it in a broken earthen vessel, as a substitute for a more proper one. I preferred, however, getting my tea in this uncomfortable manner to foregoing it entirely, as I always find it, when on my travels and overpowered by exertion, the most agreeable and refreshing beverage; insomuch that, although well provided with both wine and spirits, I had not tasted either of them on the road, since the time of leaving Moscow; and hence the reader will cease to wonder at my perseverance in procuring this refreshment on various occasions, when obstructions were thrown in the way of it. I may be wrong, but this system was probably more conducive to my health than if I had indulged, as some travellers in this country have done, in the pleasures of smoking tobacco, and the putation of mixtures with ardent spirits.

This night proved so intensely dark, that my driver experienced the greatest difficulty in keeping the road. In the morning we were detained by the repairs of the pavoshka, which had proved a ricketty concern throughout the

journey. The fact was, that the repairs were so imperfectly executed, as frequently to give way before we arrived at the succeeding station. At three in the afternoon of this day we arrived at the town of Lower Udinsk, where I intended to take my dinner, and was getting out my provision for that purpose, when the expeditor of the place gave me to understand that he wished me to go before the chief of the town. Always desirous to see things out, I proceeded for some distance with that view; but finding the day very hot, and being at the same time much exhausted with fatigue and hunger, I took a second thought, turned rusty on his hands, and refused to advance further. We, therefore, returned back to the post-house, where I determined to try the effect of assuming a little consequence, and gave myself a few airs of importance; the result of which was, that I was conducted into a respectable room, where Mr. Expeditor did me the honour of waiting, and even endeavoured to anticipate my wants, which, however, as I had my own provisions, were very few. I am assured it is a feature

in the Russian character, to become very subservient when they find a person command with authority; and if blows are used by a man of rank, he is sure to be quickly obeyed.

We pursued our journey through the whole of the 16th, experiencing again an excessively dark night and bad roads. At one o'clock in the morning of the 17th, at a time when we were passing through a wood, on a heavy sandy road which prevented our horses from travelling faster than a foot-pace, we met a man, who appeared to be reconnoitring us: he entered into conversation with our driver, but finding that we were travelling post, three in number, and probably armed, if his intentions were bad, he thought it more prudent not to attack us. I have been informed that the robbers in Siberia are shy of attempting those who travel by post, and prefer depriving the defenceless peasant of his cart load of provisions. These banditti are almost universally convicts, who escape, during the spring and summer, from the manufactories to which they have been attached, and take

to the woods, where they support themselves until winter comes on, and occasionally commit depredations on the roads and neighbouring villages. The severity of winter always compels them to take shelter in the towns and villages, when they are secured by the inhabitants, taken to their former quarters, and subjected to severe punishment; this, however, does not deter others from repeating the offence in the succeeding spring, so that, throughout the summer, the roads are always, more or less, infested with these robbers; they generally form themselves into small parties, who scour the country in all directions. A party of seven had, during this summer, been secured by the Tungoose. At five this morning we crossed the White River, distant sixty-four miles from Irkoutsk; at eight we passed by a glass and cloth manufactory; at ten breakfasted at the village of Ketow; and at three in the afternoon, after crossing the broad and rapid Angara on a raft, entered the city of Irkoutsk.

CHAPTER IV.

Irkoutsk—The Author mistaken for an impostor—Polite attention of the governor-general—Siberian funerals—Mrs. B.—Dinner on the bank of the Angara—Squalls on the river—Anecdotes of the lady abbess and her convent—Familiar intercourse among the natives—Anniversary of the Emperor's coronation—Mode of perfuming rooms—Anecdote of the governor-general—The Admiralty—Post arrives from Kamschatka—Conversation with the governor-general respecting the Author's future journey—Alarm of fire—Visit to the shrine of St. Inakenti—History of the saint—Cabbage preparation and feast—Government school—House of correction—Arrival of a gentleman from Norfolk Sound—Difficult journey from Okotsk to Yakutsk—Mode of conveying merchandize—The mail robbed by a bear—The Author's horsemanship—Visit to Colonel M.—Feast at a Russian merchant's—Festivals and mode of visiting in Siberia—Character of the governor-general—Approach of winter—Tour of inspection with the governor-general—The Bashkir Cossacks—Mongul knights of Malta—Baron Vrangel's expedition—Captain Parry—The winter sets in—Dr. Keeber—Dog sledges—Names-day presents—Increase of cold—Napoleon's portfolio—The Emperor's birth-day—Champaigne—Refinement of the Russian merchants at Irkoutsk—Trade of Irkoutsk—Christmas.

On my arrival at Irkoutsk, I lost no time in paying my respects to the governor, and de-

livering into his hands the letters of introduction with which I had been favoured. He immediately gave directions to have me billetted in a house of respectability. This is a measure adopted with all the government officers and travellers who visit the town, as there are no inns in the place, nor indeed in any part of Siberia. Hence, when a merchant builds a house, it is under the full knowledge that, according to its magnitude, he will be taxed with the necessity of providing quarters for a greater or less number of officers or soldiers; it is, however, customary with many to pay the latter a sum of money to provide themselves with lodgings elsewhere.

After tea I set off to the house of an English lady, who had lately become a widow, and upon whom I had been desired to call on my first arrival. To my astonishment, however, on my postillion communicating my name to the servant, and desire to see his mistress, the man shut the door in our faces, exclaiming that we were intoxicated. After this curious reception I returned to my lodgings and, being much fatigued with my late journey, retired to

bed. It afterwards appeared, that I had been mistaken for an impostor who had been begging at various houses in the town, under the assumed character of an Englishman, and who was suspected of pilfering such articles as fell conveniently in his way. Another circumstance, contributed to this hasty conduct of the servant's; the sister-in-law of the lady, who had been upon a visit in the house, had died suddenly from apoplexy on the preceding evening; in consequence of which the family was in so melancholy a mood that, there being no clock or other machine to measure time by, they supposed it to be eleven o'clock, whereas it was actually not eight. The alarm my visit gave was so great, that next morning the house was reported to have been attempted by robbers; nay it was even meditated to place a guard within it on the following evening.

The next morning I waited on the governor-general, who received me in the most cordial manner, and handed to me a couple of letters that had been waiting my arrival, and which, from his not having heard of me, had

given him a great deal of trouble; as one of them evidently contained money, he had written to various parts of his government, to ascertain whether any criminal of my name was in exile there. I had the honour of receiving a very particular and general invitation from his excellency both to his public and private dinners, as well as on every other occasion; and this was not mere compliment, as it was followed by every demonstration of the kindest attention.

I was this day engaged to dine at the governor's, where the party consisted chiefly of his own family, comprising his lady, one daughter, who had just finished her education at St. Petersburg, and a son of about eight years of age.

The funeral of the lady before mentioned, took place this evening; it being the custom in this country to bury the corpse within forty-eight hours after death. As soon as the person has expired, men are hired to read prayers continually over the body, until the period of interment arrives; and for this purpose priests are not necessary: cooks are also put into

immediate requisition to prepare the funeral feast. When the melancholy day arrives, the relatives and friends of the deceased, attended by numerous priests, assemble in the room where the body is laid, which is then, after a short prayer accompanied by the burning of incense, carried in procession to the church, where the funeral service is performed, after which it is conveyed to its last earthly abode. The party now return to the residence of the deceased, where after a repetition of prayer and the burning of incense, they sit down to a sumptuous dinner, from which many of them, particularly the clerical gentlemen, frequently retire in a state of inebriation. This *mournful festivity*, however, is not confined to the higher department of the family, the servants and poor are entertained with dinner, spirits, tea, &c. in the kitchen and offices, and it is by no means unusual, on the succeeding morning, to find a variety of napkins, knives, spoons, or other articles, missing. On the fourteenth, twentieth, and fortieth days from the decease, a similar dinner is given, and also at the end of the sixth and twelfth month; and if the

friends are opulent, they are expected to send donations of money to the convent, and all the churches, prisons, hospitals, and alms-houses, together with provisions to the three latter; and which are to be repeated on the various dinner-days above mentioned.

On the 19th I accompanied the governor to dine at the governor-general's, where a large party of officers, both military and civil, were assembled. After dinner, I ventured to repeat my call at the residence of the English lady, (the melancholy ceremony of her sister's funeral being over,) who, having been apprized of my arrival by the governor, prepared for me a very different reception from what I had before experienced. I believe the incident, the recollection of which often amused us, rather contributed to increase our future friendship; at all events, during my residence in this town, her attentions to me were assiduously kind.

This lady, who was between thirty and forty years of age, had buried her husband ten months before, and although he was much her senior, her respect and attachment was such, that she still continued inconsolable for his

loss. She had an only son, about twelve years of age, and I endeavoured to comfort her with the prospect that he would soon be old enough to protect her.

On Sunday the 21st, after attending high mass at the church of the governor-general, I went to the governor's to accompany a large party to a rural dinner at the distance of about two versts along the opposite side of the Angara, which we first crossed in boats; the point fixed upon was an elevated spot near the bank of the river, and which affords the most commanding and picturesque view of the town of Irkoutsk; here tents were pitched, and the tables spread with the most delicate viands, and a great variety of wines, our repast being enlivened by vocal and instrumental music. Dinner being concluded, the party, consisting of about fifty persons, amused themselves with dancing, and different games until the approach of evening, when, after taking tea, we embarked in boats, and returned to town. We had scarcely effected our landing, when a tremendous gust of wind arose, succeeded by heavy rain. These squalls are very common

in this country, and often come on, as on the present occasion, with such suddenness and violence as to upset any boats which may happen to be on the water, so that we considered ourselves fortunate in having reached the shore.

A few years since a melancholy affair of this kind occurred. The lady abbess, with a party of nuns, from the convent near this place, having crossed the river to transact some business on the opposite shore, were overtaken on their return by one of these sudden storms; the boat upset, and the superior with several others were drowned. Some few were saved by clinging to the boat, amongst whom was the present lady abbess, who related the story in my presence. I have heard from other sources, that this holy lady now frequently moistens her body, internally, with a fluid far more agreeable than she found the waters of the Angara on the above occasion. Her convent unfortunately has not attained the highest character for the Christian virtues of honesty, chastity, and sobriety; some time back, a pious lady, on her way from Kamschatka to

St. Petersburg, refusing the private accommodation of her friends, took her temporary residence at this convent; when on the evening before her proposed departure, while occupied in the chapel in religious devotion, her baggage disappeared from her apartment. The police effected the restoration of part of the property, but the thief escaped detection.

On the 22d I was induced to change my lodgings to the residence of a gentleman of the governor's chancery, who had kindly importuned me to do so, and as he was a literary man, and conversant with the French language, I felt the change an important advantage. My only objection arose from the fear of discommoding him. This, however, was groundless, as foreigners differ essentially in their ideas of comfort and inconvenience from the English, who do not like to be intruded upon in their private habits; while on the continent intercourse is so familiar, that you may ramble about the various apartments of a house, even into the bed or dressing-room of its proprietor, without this being deemed an intrusion. There is something to me in this

system that feels heartless; and, for my own part, I prefer having my undisturbed hours of private occupation. I must admit, that many of our customs are taxes upon our time and patience, which we cannot readily get clear of; for instance, it would with us be regarded as a bad compliment to our host, to withdraw unexpectedly from a dinner-party; we should probably be suspected either of dislike to the company, or of some other dissatisfaction.

Friday the 26th.—The last three days have been cloudy and cold, with occasional rain, and some indications of snow; to-day the weather is much finer.

I passed the evening at the house of Colonel Nariefsky, who commands the only regiment of regular troops that are quartered in this neighbourhood, and which is but a garrison batallion. As neither this gentleman nor his lady spoke French, I was obliged, in my own defence, to attempt some conversation in Russ, of which language I had now collected sufficient knowledge to be occasionally serviceable,

particularly with the assistance of natural signs.

The 27th, being the anniversary of the emperor's coronation, was observed as a holiday. The ceremony on this occasion, and which is the same as is observed every Sunday, was conducted as follows. All the officers attached to the government, military as well as civil, assembled at the governor's house at nine in the morning, and from thence, after remaining a short time to pay their respects to that officer, proceeded to the governor-general's, whom they accompanied to high mass at the church. This concluded, they paid a visit to the bishop, who presented them with tea, wine, and other refreshments. This last visit, however, is only paid on great holidays.

The party now called upon the governor's lady, who also presented them with refreshment; after which each retired to his respective residence.

At two o'clock most of the party reassembled to dinner at the governor's, where also, those who chose returned to

tea, and passed the evening in cards, dancing, music, &c.

I shall take this opportunity of describing the method the Russians generally make use of for perfuming their apartments. For this purpose a composition of aromatic herbs is sprinkled upon a hot iron, or live coals, and carried around the room. The vapour arising from hence is certainly very agreeable, and tends to remove any unpleasant smell remaining after dinner; I cannot, however, say that it is refreshing, as it appears to me to render the atmosphere close and suffocating. I think it would be preferable to substitute a composition of diluted lavender water and vinegar, a small quantity of which dropped into a red-hot iron spoon, would diffuse a far more refreshing and agreeable effluvia throughout the apartment.

A ball was given in the evening at the town assembly-room, the elegance and commodiousness of which would not disgrace any moderate sized city in Europe. This room contains a full length portrait of the emperor, which was painted at St. Petersburg, the head being

copied from one taken in England, and the body from a painting of the French artist Gerard. This portrait was presented to the town of Irkoutsk by the present governor, under circumstances that reflect high honour on his character.

On taking possession of his government, the principal inhabitants met him a short distance from the town, to offer the accustomed symbols of hospitality and welcome--bread and salt. These were presented on a massy silver salver, having a complimentary inscription. On finding this was intended as a present to him, his excellency magnanimously declined accepting it, as partaking too much of what some might denominate a bribe; nor could the earnest and repeated solicitations of the inhabitants induce him to alter this determination, unless they would allow him to present them with a portrait of their sovereign in return; the cost of which far exceeded the value of the plate.

On Monday, the 29th, after dining with the governor-general, I walked to the admiralty, distant about two versts from the town, where

I was received with great attention by Captain Waldron, the commandant of the establishment. We had, on the preceding night, three degrees of frost, and to-day twelve degrees of heat, being a variation of nearly thirty-four degrees of Fahrenheit.

On the following evening the governor-general gave a ball and supper to no less than a hundred persons, consisting of the government officers, and many of the principal merchants, with their families.

Thursday, October 2, the summer post arrived from Kamschatka, on its way to St. Petersburg. I call it the summer post, because there are only two in the year; one of which sets off in the summer, by the sea of Okotsk; the other in the winter, by land, over the snow, making a journey of not less than eight thousand miles. It will be presumed that news from Kamschatka is not likely to be of a particularly interesting nature. On the present occasion, all I could learn was, that six whales were cast on shore at different times, during the storms of the last winter.

To prove that the climate of Kamschatka is not so intensely severe as is generally imagined, I may state as a fact, that during the last winter, its greatest degree of cold was eighteen degress of frost, while that at St. Petersburg was twenty-five. For this, good reasons may be assigned; namely, that the latitude of the latter place is more northern, while the peninsula, being surrounded in a great measure by the Pacific Ocean, its temperature is kept at a more equable degree.

About this time the merchants from Irkoutsk, who had been attending the fair of Nijni-Novogorod, began to return. Their merchandize, however, was not expected until the winter was more advanced, as it is delayed to take advantage of the snow roads, which constitute a more expeditious and economical mode of conveyance.

On Sunday, the 6th, I accompanied the governor's family, who were Livonians, to the German church, the pastor of which, besides his clerical functions, officiates as a teacher of the German, French, and English languages, geography, music, and other branches of

polite education. He was originally tutor in a nobleman's family, but not liking the situation, and having been educated to the church, procured his present appointment, which he has now filled for more than thirty years.

On the 6th I dined with the governor-general, it being one of his public days. My relations with this gentleman were now of so friendly a nature, that I was frequently requested to stay after the party had dispersed, when he would kindly invite me to walk, or ride out with him in his carriage. This emboldened me to think that I had acquired some share of his estimation, and as we had conversed repeatedly and much together, that he must have entered more or less deeply into the various shades of my character. I therefore presumed to communicate to him, what I had done to no other person before, an outline of the plan I had decided upon for my future proceedings, and which was no less than to complete the tour of the world. I was the more induced to this, as I felt assured that it would be materially in his power to promote my views. On receiving the intima-

tion, he informed me, much to my surprise, that although I might visit any part of his own extensive government, he could not give me permission to embark from Kamschatka or any other sea-port, and that for this purpose a direct application must be made to the emperor himself. I consequently requested the favour of him to make that application, which he kindly acceded to; but at the same time made use of every possible argument to persuade me to decline what he deemed so hazardous a journey. I assured him, that my determination was the result of very serious deliberation and enquiries respecting the route I proposed to take, and that I felt it was not to be shaken. He still, however, and, I am convinced, with the kindest motive, persisted in his endeavour to induce me to abandon the project; but in this, as in every other subject, opposition served to increase my ardour to surmount obstacles; so that, instead of being convinced by his reasonings, which did not suggest any difficulty that I had not before contemplated, I only felt the more enthusiastically stimulated to per-

severance. Our conference ended with a promise on the part of his excellency to write to the emperor on the subject.

On the evening of the 7th an alarm of fire extended through the city; however, from the promptitude of the firemen, whose regulations are similar to those of St. Petersburg, (the same arrangement operating in the chief town of every government in the empire,) the progress of this destructive element was soon arrested.

I trust my readers will not accuse me of being tinctured with superstition, when I relate the following circumstance. A lady with whom I had the pleasure of being intimately acquainted, was pleased to take a particular interest in the state of my eyes, and was convinced that my vision might be restored, if I would place myself under the care of her favourite saint, Inakenti, (or Innocent,) who, although he had been defunct for nearly a century, was, in her estimation, the best medical man and oculist in the world. Partly to oblige her, and partly to gratify my own

curiosity, which was ever alive to the peculiarities of the people with whom I might associate, I consented to make trial of his miraculous powers; and, in consequence, one morning accompanied the lady and her husband to the monastery, where the saint reposes in a magnificent shrine. As soon as the appointed service of the day had concluded, I was conducted to the hallowed tomb, where, after many prayers and sprinklings of holy water, the priest directed me to approach the coffin, and kiss the withered hand of the saint. This being complied with, the priest began to apply considerable friction on my eyes with a piece of silk, that appeared to have been immersed in oil. I acknowledge that he made them smart much; but, alas! after the operation was finished I could not see an inch farther. When the ceremony concluded, we retired to the house of a peasant in the neighbourhood to breakfast, as it was an especial point of our creed, that a full stomach would have negatived all the good effects of the saint's healing qualities; it was also declared

that, without proper faith, I was not to anticipate any advantage; the want of which was probably the fatal source of my disappointment.

I was afterwards informed that this holy man had once been appointed to an embassy to China, but being much addicted to tippling, his excellency the ambassador, fearful that he would disgrace his suite, contrived to drop him on the road as bishop of this place, where he died in 1731, and was buried at the Monastery Vosresenskoi which being afterwards destroyed by fire, with the exception of a small chapel in which his remains had been deposited, and which were discovered in a dry, unputrescent state, the fluids having all evaporated, the circumstance was regarded as miraculous, and he was consequently canonized. In 1804 his remains were disinterred, and placed in this magnificent shrine, the pious gift of a shopkeeper of Irkoutsk, who expended twelve thousand silver roubles on the occasion, and they are now the veneration of the country, thousands flocking an-

nually, on the anniversary of his disinterment, to offer their devotions to them.

On my return home, after this ceremony, my attention was attracted by a peculiar noise, as if a number of women were pounding some substance in tubs, accompanying their motions with national singing. I was informed that they were occupied in chopping cabbages. The process is as follows. The cabbages being put into a large tub, a number of women encircle it, and commence chopping them into fragments with an instrument something like a semicircular cheese knife, and which is attached to a handle resembling a broomstick. The cabbage being thus comminuted, is then transferred to another tub, where it is closely compressed with a rammer used for the purpose. At the bottom are placed large pieces of black bread, while the upper surface is strown with flower; a cover is now placed on the tub; in three or four days the mass begins to ferment, when a little water is thrown upon it. The vessel is now finally closed, and the cabbage keeps good throughout the year.

The above is the ordinary mode of preparation, but a better kind is preserved for the heads of the family, being seasoned with salt, spices, and aromatic herbs. I attended one of these cabbage parties, where not less than six thousand cabbages were under the process, the prime cost of which was twenty roubles per thousand, all intended for the consumption of one family. The evening of the concluding day of preparation is, like our harvest-home, a grand festival among the servants, and spent in dancing, singing, and other amusements.

On Friday, the 10th, I visited the government school for boys, which, although at the distance of about three thousand miles, is under the superintendence of the College of Cazan, a professor from whence occasionally visits it. This school has its proper masters in every branch of education, with a director at their head. The boys are taught gratuitously, and if their conduct and talents merit it, at the expiration of three years are sent to the college to complete their education, at the expence of government. The library contains some well-selected books in the Rus-

sian, French, German, English, and Chinese languages, and also a fine pair of English globes, eighteen inches in diameter.

The history of these globes is rather curious, —they constituted a part of the presents intended for the emperor of China in the late disappointed embassy of Count Golavin, and which, on his return, were left at Irkoutsk. During my residence at this place, these presents, consisting of paintings, jewelry, watches, fire-arms, cloths, velvets, &c., were sold by public auction. There were also various philosophical instruments, which were reserved for the use of the public school, the present globes being amongst the number, as well as a beautiful model in bronze of the equestrian statue of Peter the Great at St. Petersburg.

The school library had a museum attached to it, with a collection of minerals, and various implements, &c., used by the Chinese and Mongul Tartars.

On the 11th, in company with the governor, I visited the House of Correction, in which not only the delinquents of the place are confined for a limited period, but also the exiles whose

offences have been of the lighter kind. Almost every kind of trade is pursued here, so that any article may be made or purchased at a regulated price.

A gentleman arrived this evening from Sitka, in Norfolk Sound, or King George's Archipelago, which is the principal Russian establishment on the north-west coast of America. He had gone out in a frigate as an interpreter for the voyage; but being compelled to relinquish his situation by ill health, was now on his return to St. Petersburg. As I anticipated pursuing my journey by the same route as this gentleman had lately travelled, I was happy in the opportunity of conversing with him, as I could not fail to derive much information connected with my own plans. The description he gave of his journey from Okotsk, in Kamschatka, to Yakutsk, although effected in summer, was by no means a flattering one; he had been compelled to prosecute it for more than four hundred miles, through the wildest tracts, without any road to assist him; and in the course of it was frequently obliged to traverse mountains, valleys,

and extensive marshes, where at every step the horses sunk up to their middles; occasionally no opportunity offered itself of procuring shelter or refreshment for days together, and once he travelled a hundred and thirty miles without meeting with the slightest trace of a human soul or habitation.

It may be conceived that this journey would be more difficult in the winter time; it is, however, frequently accomplished with the advantage of the snow, by means of sledges, drawn by horses, dogs, or the rein-deer. It is fraught, however, with much peril in consequence of the snow storms, which sweeping up the valleys occasionally overwhelm inevitably both men and animals. The preferable season is the spring, at a time when, much of the snow having evaporated and thawed, the ground being still hard, a better progress will be made, than either in winter, when the snow is deep and uneven, or in summer, when the woods and marshes are almost impassable.

The merchants convey their goods through this country in the following manner: such as are likely to take injury from the weather

being first packed in oblong cases, the thickness of which is inconsiderable, and then covered over with leather; these are then suspended to wooden arms projecting from the packsaddles of the horses, one hanging on each side; each horse carries about five poods, or a hundred and fifty pounds weight. Occasionally rein-deer are substituted for horses, when they carry in the same manner about half the weight.

A very singular robbery was effected on the post, or mail, in the course of last winter, while making its way through this country. A bear suddenly starting out from his hiding place frightened the horse that carried the mail bags, and which, running away, contrived to disengage himself of his load; this the bear seized upon, while the agitated attendants made their escape, and left him in full possession of the spoil. The bags were afterwards found in a torn state, as well as their contents, some of which were entirely missing. One paper in particular, the journal of a ship that had arrived at Okotsk was so lacerated as to be useless.

On the 13th, I accompanied the governor to the foundling hospital, and the hospital for soldiers and convicts, the whole of which appeared to be excellently regulated, and as to order and cleanliness, not surpassed by any thing of the kind even at St. Petersburg or Moscow.

After dinner I rode out on horseback, in company with the governor and a part of his family, and was near meeting with an accident, in consequence of my horse taking fright at the too sudden approach of a Cossack to rectify some derangement of the martingale. Being unprepared, and my feet out of the stirrups, the spirited animal set off at full speed through the streets of the town; my presence of mind, however, did not forsake me, and I soon brought him up, without the least ill consequence, except the alarm which my party experienced on the occasion.

On the 16th I had the pleasure of riding, with the governor-general, the governor, and a large party, six miles out of town, to the country-seat occupied by Colonel N——for the occasion. Here we were very hospitably and

agreeably entertained. The day was remarkably fine for the season, which much added to our gratification, although the heat was very oppressive. After dinner the younger part of the company joined in the merry dance. In the close of the evening we returned to town, highly gratified with our excursion. On the following day Colonel N——, according to the Siberian custom, called on all the principal gentlemen who had dined with him the day before, to thank them for the honour they had conferred upon him, while Madame N—— made a similar visit to the ladies.

I experienced this day a strong sensation of light in my right eye, but without being able to discern any object. Some might be inclined to attribute this to the interposition of St. Inakenti.

On the 20th I partook of a splendid entertainment at the house of a Russian merchant, and which was given in honour of his wife's names-day. At three o'clock we sat down to dinner, the repast being enlivened by vocal and instrumental music. After dinner, the spirit of conviviality waved high her festive banner,

saluted by repeated discharges of champaigne corks, as well as numerous more silent compliments of various other wines. It would scarcely be credited in Europe that the state of society in this distant part of the world could be so luxurious and polished. These magnificent entertainments are by no means unfrequent amongst the merchants of Irkoutsk.

According to the Siberian customs, which were the ancient ones of Russia, every festival lasts three days, during which the family concerned in it, literally keep an open house, the time being occupied with an eternal series of visitors. Those who do not desire to dine or sup, make their calls in the earlier part of the day; and, at whatever hour the visit is paid, appropriate refreshments are brought in, and it is a bad compliment if they are not partaken of. Many a disordered head and stomach did I hear of, occasioned by a compliance with the pressing importunities of the kind host or hostess, to participate in their good fare, when the inclination revolted from it. Nor, the act completed, do the habits of these people tend to prevent or mitigate

the ill consequences, which exercise would probably obviate; on the contrary, all their movements from place to place are effected in carriages, it being deemed highly unfashionable to be seen on foot.

I could never permit myself to conform with this latter custom, and have generally excited much expression of surprise, and some regret, when I have persisted in walking home after an evening party, in preference to making use of one of the numerous equipages that were always offered me. The governor-general frequently reproached me, in a friendly manner, for not sending for one of his carriages on every occasion. His excellency, notwithstanding, like myself, preferred walking, and scarcely a day passed but he invited me to take some ramble or other with him; a circumstance which was highly agreeable to me: in short, nothing could be more flattering than to be indulged in such friendly intercourse with a person of his rank, and who, possessing an intelligent, polished mind, with the strictest integrity, and a great experience of human nature, appeared to combine the sincerity of

an Englishman and the politeness of a Frenchman, with the refined hospitality of the Russian. If there ever was a man, who devoted himself to the interests of his sovereign and his country, I believe it to have been Alexandre Stephanovitch Lavinski.

Monday, 22d.—We experienced to-day a high wind, accompanied by snow, which induced us to consider the winter as commenced. On the following morning the thermometer stood at twelve degrees of frost. In a few days afterwards the government vessels, kept for the passage of Lake Baikal, and which had for some days before been shut up in the bay, were laid up. These consist of two brigantines, and as many schooners, each commanded by either a stoorman, or a midshipman, who is under the orders of the commandant of the admiralty at Irkoutsk.

On the 30th of October I had the honour of accompanying his excellency the governor-general, and his suite, on a tour of examination in his government. The morning was fine and cold, and our equipages consisted of three sledges. About three in the afternoon we

reached the first point of observation, which was a brandy distillery belonging to the crown, and worked by exiles. Our dinner, prepared by his excellency's own cook, was served up in his private apartment, as he declined either being entertained by any of the officers of the establishment, or laying himself under obligation to those whose proceedings it was his duty to examine into. I was not a little surprised on this occasion in meeting with English cheese and porter, that had just arrived from St. Petersburg. After dinner we went over the whole of this immense establishment, where every part of the process of distillation was carrying on. The horrid countenances of many of the workmen forcibly indicated the deeds for which they had been banished from their native climes, to linger out the remainder of their lives in the bitterness of exile. After visiting every department of the distillery, we inspected some barracks in its vicinity, which are situated on an elevated ground near the manufactory.

November 12.—At nine in the morning we

continued our journey down the right bank of the Angara. After proceeding about ten miles, we arrived at a populous village, the inhabitants of which, from the account of the driver we took from this place, are in a flourishing condition. This young man described himself as the proprietor of more land than he knew how to cultivate, having sixteen horses and as many cows, besides sheep, pigs, and other stock upon it; and yet many in the village were much richer than himself. The chief employments of the inhabitants is the transporting of spirits from the distilleries to the town of Irkoutsk, cultivating their land, and fishing in the river.

Our road from this village continued, for ten miles farther, along the bank of the Angara, with high rocky cliffs on the right. About noon we crossed the river at a ferry, and took a direction towards the main road from Moscow to Irkoutsk, which we reached after travelling about eighteen miles over bad snow roads. We now proceeded about twelve miles farther in the direction of Moscow, until

about three o'clock, when we arrived at a village where his excellency had business to transact.

Dinner being now over, his excellency proceeded to his audience with the peasants of the place, when I was much pleased with the equitable manner in which he decided upon their respective complaints, and every other point at issue between them and the government. The leading subject of discussion was the arrangement of the post-horse contracts, the peasants wishing to raise the price beyond that of the preceding year. As corn and hay, however, were not more expensive, the governor could not admit the justice of their claims, and deferred his decision to a subsequent arrangement at Irkoutsk, where I was informed that he at length convinced them of the unreasonableness of their demands, so that they finally consented to accede to the former terms.

The priest of the village came to pay his respects, a compliment which his excellency returned by a bank-note.

Thursday, 13th.—At nine in the morning

we commenced our return to Irkoutsk, and dined at a village about eighty-one versts distant from it. On leaving this place we crossed a small stream, named the White River, which empties itself soon after into the Angara. Fourteen miles nearer to Irkoutsk we passed a government glass and cloth manufactory.

Near this spot, about a fortnight before my arrival at Irkoutsk, a picquet of Oremburg, or Bashkir, Cossacks were surprised by a party of banditti, consisting of eight run-away convicts, who, after securing the whole of them, equipped themselves in their uniform, and mounting their horses, began, in the assumed character of these soldiers, to plunder the adjacent villages. At length the captain of the band was killed in an attempt upon the house of a peasant, after which the remainder dispersed, and were, most of them, eventually secured, and consigned to punishment. These Cossacks having, on various occasions, been suspected of conniving at the depredations of the robbers, and in other respects not being deemed so efficient as the

native troops, were, soon after this occurrence, sent back to their own government.

After travelling seven miles further we arrived at Ketow, where we passed the night. I remarked, during this journey, that although his excellency was by the laws of the country entitled to demand accommodation wherever he went without making any return for it, that he most liberally compensated the persons with whom he took up his quarters. He always slept in a room by himself, while the gentlemen who accompanied him, and myself, occupied other apartments, lying on straw mattresses placed on the floor, with our great coats to cover us. At this place we were exceedingly tormented with numbers of a kind of locust dropping on our faces, so that I was apprehensive of opening my mouth, lest I should swallow some of them, and, although much fatigued with my previous day's journey, instead of sleeping, lay awake all night, and thought of the plagues of Egypt.

At nine o'clock we again set out, and after crossing the Angara, on a raft, re-entered the town of Irkoutsk, the whole of us regretting

that our agreeable journey had terminated so soon. His excellency, however, proposed very shortly to undertake another, and kindly invited me to be of the party; this was to a place called Toonga, about sixty miles from Irkoutsk, on the nearest point of the Chinese frontier, and where there is a settlement of Mongul Tartars.

The Emperor Paul made some of the chiefs of these Mongul Tartars Knights of Malta! It must be difficult to conceive how these people would contemplate the nature or duties of such a creation, or appreciate the honour conferred upon them; undoubtedly they would be gratified with the finery of the star and ribbon, but farther their ideas could scarcely extend.

On Sunday the 16th I had the pleasure of meeting an officer who had been attached to Baron Vrangel's expedition on the Frozen Ocean, which it had been exploring for the last three years. This gentleman had permission to return to St. Petersburg, whither the baron was preparing to follow him, as soon as his affairs with the natives, from whom he had derived his chief resources during this

protracted expedition, were arranged. The greatest degree of cold experienced during this period was only forty-two degrees Reaumur, whereas Lieutenant Angou found it at forty-eight.

Speaking of Captain Parry's expedition, this officer expressed his decided opinion that it would prove abortive, and never more be heard of. This, he stated, was the general sentiment of all the officers attached to his own expedition. I begged leave, however, to differ from him in this opinion, because it was impossible that he could surpass his former attempt without occupying two winters in the Polar Sea, and therefore his return at an earlier period ought not to be expected. It may be conceived that it was a source of infinite gratification to me, when, only a fortnight after this conversation, intelligence of the safety of our undaunted countryman reached us; besides, I felt, as every Englishman must have done, that I participated in the honour which his perseverance had conferred on our nation.

The weather now began to show stronger

indications of winter; on the 18th and 19th we had so much snow that it was remarked, that an equal quantity had not fallen at so early a period for forty years before. In the afternoon of the 19th the snow storms cleared off, and a hard frost succeeded; the thermometer sinking at midnight to eighteen degrees of frost; equal to eight degrees below zero of Fahrenheit.

It is somewhat remarkable that in this intensely cold climate, the houses should have more windows than are to be found in any other part of the Russian empire.

Thursday, 20th.—The thermometer is now thirteen degrees below zero, of Fahrenheit. This being the names-day of the Grand Duke Michael, was kept as a holiday, the governor giving a dinner and ball on the occasion.

On the 21st I spent my evening with a Russian merchant who traded to China, and exhibited to me various interesting articles brought from thence.

Monday, the 24th November.—This is the last day previous to the feast that precedes the

Christmas festival; and in consequence several weddings were celebrated, it being forbidden to marry afterwards, until Christmas is over.

On the 1st of December, Dr. Keeber, another of the gentlemen belonging to Baron Vrangel's expedition, arrived from Yakoutsk. This gentleman, one day after dinner, exhibited, at the governor-general's, a couple of dogs which he had brought with him from the shores of the Frozen Ocean; the oldest of which, a remarkably grave and docile animal, had assisted in drawing his master nearly five thousand miles. The other was young and playful, and had not yet been accustomed to the sledge, but was excellent as a sporting dog. These dogs were considerably less than an ordinary Newfoundlander; they were long in the back, and had the head and ears resembling those of a wolf, with a very thick coat, which was intermediate to hair and wool; in short they appeared of a distinct species from any I had before met with; their ordinary food was raw fish, of which about five pounds were given

them every morning, this constituting their only meal. Dr. K. informed us, that they would occasionally draw the sledge at the rate of eight miles in the hour; and travel nearly seventy miles a day, for several days in succession; or fifty-three miles a day for a month; or forty miles a day for several months together; on which occasions they always rested for five or ten minutes, in each hour, to recover breath. Eight dogs are considered sufficient to convey three persons, or a proportionate weight of provisions and other stores. The sledges, in which these astonishing exploits are performed, appear very similar to those found by Captain Cook on Sledge Island.* I procured a model of this vehicle from Dr. Keeber's servant, a native of the borders of the Frozen Ocean, and which I have still in my possession.

* "It was ten feet long, twenty inches broad, had a kind of rail-work on each side, and was shod with bone. The construction of it was admirable, and all the parts neatly put together; some with wooden pins, but mostly with thongs or lashings of whalebone."—*Cook's Voyages.*

December 5th.—This was the names-day of one of the governor's daughters, (Clementina,) and a ball and supper were given in consequence. On such an occasion you are expected, in the course of the morning, to pay a complimentary visit, and presents are not unfrequently made to the party most concerned; and, formerly, it was customary for the merchants to offer very costly things to a member of a governor's family; as furs, silks, wines, or any other article which might be substantially useful; while the presents from more particular friends were of a fanciful or sentimental nature; both the *utile* and the *dulce* were, however, occasionally combined. The custom still exists in a minor degree.

Sunday, the 7th, was an excessively cold day, Fahrenheit's thermometer being down to thirty-five and a half degrees below zero; it did not, however, prevent me from walking about as usual, protected by my wadded coat, and fur cap and collar, with an additional silk handkerchief to cover my chin and mouth; and fur shoes over my boots. I was obliged,

however, frequently to rub my nose and cheeks to prevent them from freezing, a precaution I found necessary, in consequence of having had one cheek frost bitten a few days before.

The governor-general placed in my hands, one day, a portfolio that had belonged to Bonaparte, on which "*Des affaires etrangèrs*" were inscribed in gold letters, and which he had purchased from a Cossack, who had fallen in with it in the shape of plunder. Such state papers as required the emperor's inspection, used to be transmitted to him in these portfolios, whenever he was absent from Paris. On their arrival, his mamaluke unlocked and arranged them on the table, when his majesty taking the papers from them in succession, after giving to each the necessary attention, returned them into their original situation, when the mamaluke secured the locks and they were sent back to Paris. His excellency had also a portable mill, for grinding corn, which had belonged to the French army that invaded Russia.

On the 23d one of the emperor's adjutants

arrived, who had been dispatched from St. Petersburg, to inspect the troops, military schools, &c. in Siberia.

Wednesday, the 24th, being his imperial majesty's birth-day, the governor gave a grand dinner to all the people of distinction in the place: while, in the evening, the governor-general entertained more than three hundred persons with a splendid ball. The party, the whole of whom were as respectably dressed as they would have been in any town of Europe, assembled at seven in the evening, when the entertainments commenced by his excellency's vocal performers singing "God save the Emperor," which is the same melody as our "God save the King," with Russ words adapted to it; immediately after this the ball was opened with a Polonaise. In the course of the evening the health of the emperor was repeatedly drank in champaigne.

This favorite wine is occasionally extremely costly in Irkoutsk. When the governor-general had himself ordered it to be sent from St. Petersburg it only cost him half-a-guinea a bottle, a moiety of which expence was incurred

in its conveyance. The merchants of Irkoutsk, however, generally sell wine of the same quality at twenty or twenty-five roubles, the price varying acccording to the quantity in the market. In the course of last year, when the governor-general was at Kiachta, his officers gave him a splendid entertainment, on which occasion they bought up all the champagne that was to be procured at Irkoutsk, at the enormous price of a hundred roubles per bottle, equal to nearly four guineas, beside the expence of carriage, and which wine was afterwards drank as freely as if it had been water.

Although most of the respectable merchants of the place were present at this entertainment, there was not one with a long beard, a circumstance quite the reverse of what might have been expected; nor could any individual give me a reason why this class of people should be, comparatively, so much more refined in this remote part of the empire than at the capital itself. Probably the effect might result from the government officers, few in number at the first settlement under the Rus-

sian government, finding the necessity, or advantage of admitting the mercantile class into an unusual friendly intercourse with them, and which insensibly led the latter to an adoption of the manners and dress of their superiors. They would thus acquire a marked superiority over their brethren in the capital, who are regarded as only a degree superior to slaves, as I have formerly observed.

The trade of Irkoutsk principally depends upon the intercourse with Kiachti, and Nijni-Novogorod, and the intermediate towns. Its merchants, however, by no means monopolize this trade, as other places, and particularly Cazan, participate freely in it. They have, also, connexions with various other parts o the empire, so that it is not unusual for a merchant to be absent nine months in the year, from January to October. Many of them are exceedingly rich, and have erected noble houses. The present mayor, some time since, built one worthy of being the residence of a prince, and so contrived, that every apartment, passage, and staircase, is preserved at the same equable temperature.

The trade of Irkoutsk, however, has lately fallen off, so that many merchants complain of bad times. What has chiefly contributed to this is, that the merchants of St. Petersburg and Moscow have latterly adopted the plan of sending their own agents to transact their business. Another cause is, that there are two fairs held annually at Irkoutsk, which are open to merchants from all parts of Russia, and which not only prevent the exclusive monopoly of those of Irkoutsk, and reduce the quantity of their sales, but oblige them, from the spirit of competition, to dispose of their commodities at lower prices than they would otherwise take. They have strongly petitioned the governor-general to suppress these fairs, but he is too honourable and patriotic to sacrifice the good of the community for individual interest.

Another powerful cause operates to depress the profits of the Irkoutsk merchants—the economy now observed in the arrangements of the government contracts, which, previous to the present governor's administration, were conducted upon the most fraudulent principles,

so as to have been the sources of immense opulence to the contracting merchants, as well as the government officers. In the article of grain, for instance, one rouble per pood is only now paid by government; whereas, three years ago, the contract price was three roubles. It has, even, during the present summer, been purchased by the inhabitants as low as forty copecks. What a saving this is, both to the government and the people! and how satisfactory must be the feelings of the present governor-general, in thus having merited the approbation of his emperor, and the blessings of the poor! I have often been present when this excellent man has stimulated the peasantry to the pursuits of industry, and had my feelings highly excited by my admiration of his philanthropy and patriotism.

December 25.—This being our anniversary of Christmas, I had the pleasure of celebrating it at the house of my friend and countrywoman, Mrs. B——.

On the 29th the Angara was reported to be frozen up to within forty versts of the town; as also the Baikal Lake. The latter, however, did

not prove to be the case, and was only inferred from the circumstance of no clouds having been visible in that direction since the day before, and which was supposed to be indicative of its complete closure by the ice.

> " Now Christmas revels in a world of snow,
> And bids her berries blush, her carols flow."

CHAPTER V.

The emperor sends a feld-jager for the Author—Disappointment occasioned thereby—His reserved plan—The Market, preparatory to the Russian Christmas—Christmas Day—Excessive cold—Closure of the Angara—Russian mode of congratulation on the season—Conversation with the governor-general and Colonel M——, respecting the Author's plans—The Baikal Lake frozen over—Masquerade—The Author directed, by an imperial mandate, to quit the Russian empire forthwith—Observations on this arbitrary conduct.

JANUARY 2, 1824.—I was this day sitting with the governor-general, after his dinner-party had retired, when our conversation turned upon some news that had just arrived from St. Petersburg by a lieutenant of the feld-jagers, when his excellency greatly surprised me by communicating that the emperor had sent that officer for me, adding, that his imperial majesty would not consent to my

embarking from, or even proceeding to Kamschatka, and was much concerned that I should have advanced thus far into Siberia, without that attendance which my affliction made necessary, or any knowledge of the language; he had, therefore, sent this officer for my protection, and directed him to accompany me on my return to Europe. His excellency then suggested, that it would be better not to allow the circumstance to transpire, as no other person was acquainted with the nature of the feld-jager's commission.

This was a most severe disappointment of my favourite project and sanguine expectations; and I was the more affected, as I thought I could perceive, from his excellency's manner, that something still remained undivulged, which a feeling of delicacy restrained him from communicating; and I believed, from the great intimacy I had enjoyed with him, that I was well acquainted with his manner and sentiments. As I did not feel it proper to urge a further disclosure than he thought right to make, I took my leave, under a pressing invitation to return in the evening.

The intelligence I had received acted almost as an electric shock upon me; however, I gradually brought my feelings under controul again, and began to contemplate my reserved plan, which, although neither so grand nor novel in the prospect as the one I was now compelled to abandon, was still sufficiently interesting to compensate, in some measure, for my present disappointment: this was, to retrace my steps to Tomsk, from thence to proceed to Omsk, and along the line of the Kirguise Steppe to Troitzk and Orenburg; I then proposed to cross the Volga to Saratof, at which last town I calculated I should arrive about the time of the breaking up of the ice of the Volga, and I therefore intended, as the roads would be in a wretched state, to pass a month in that place, until their improvement would admit of my proceeding along the banks of the Volga to Tzaritzin, from whence I intended to traverse a steppe of two hundred miles, and cross the Don, or to pass down the Volga to Astracan and Tchercass; from thence to Tagon Rock, the Crimea, and Odessa; from which latter place I would have embarked for Constantinople, and returned to

Europe through Greece and the Austrian states.

In the evening I had the pleasure of a private interview with his excellency; nothing further, however, transpired, for the subject was evidently painful and embarrassing to both of us.

Disappointed in my views of accomplishing the tour of the world, on my return home, I commenced my arrangements to enable me to put my minor plan into execution; in particular I wrote to my banker at Moscow, to forward me money* to Crasno-Yarsk, where I calculated upon meeting with it on my return towards Tomsk, after I had first visited Nertschinsk and the frontier towns of China, Kiachta, and Maimatchin; and which I had arranged to reach in time for the three days' festival which is celebrated by the Chinese at the coming in of the new year, the first month of which is named the White Month.

I spent a great part of this day at the residence of Mrs. B——, being literally compelled to this move off for the time, by the general

* I had waited for the emperor's decision, relative to my plans, before I could determine what sum, as well as the kind of money I should require.

washing and scrubbing that takes place, in every Russian house, preparatory to both the Christmas and Easter holidays.

On Sunday, the 4th, after divine service, I went to visit the market, where the inhabitants were most busily employed in laying in provisions for the approaching festival, which is kept up twelve days successively; the three first are, however, the more important ones, being almost entirely occupied in congratulatory visits; the nine last are certainly the more agreeable, as being spent in friendly dinner and evening parties. Many of the articles exposed in the market, were preserved in a frozen state, as cream, fish, wild-fowl, &c. During the previous fast, the Russians neither use cream nor butter, consequently these articles accumulate until the time of festivity, when the consumption is considerable.

On the 5th, being the Russian Christmas eve, service was performed at two o'clock in all the churches.

Christmas-day made its appearance with an intensity of cold which had not before been experienced during the present winter. The

mercury froze in the ball of the thermometer; and yet the town was all animation, and throughout the day crowds of people were seen hurrying to the churches, or to pay their congratulatory visits.

On this happy occasion I accompanied the governor-general to the cathedral, where a sermon was preached by the bishop, but which was almost wholly unintelligible to me; after this we went to the bishop's residence, to congratulate him on the arrival of an æra so glorious in the Christian church; to which complimentary replies were made to his excellency by four clerical students, and in as many languages, namely, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and Russ. This ceremony being concluded, we made a variety of other visits; after which I had the honour of attending the governor home to dinner, when he entertained all the official characters of the place, and some few of the merchants.

Although the cold was so intensely biting that we could not put our noses out of the door, without the risk of losing a part of them, yet, singular as it may appear, the gover-

nor's table to-day teemed with a great variety of fresh vegetables, as well as lettuces and radishes.

On this day the priests visit every house in their respective parishes, the leader of the procession bearing in his hand the holy cross, and acquaint the master of the family that Christ is born. The return made to these congratulations constitutes one of the principal sources of subsistence to the lower orders of the clergy; it may truly be termed a beggarly mode of subsisting.

The time intermediate to Christmas and Lent, is generally a season of mirth and enjoyment amongst the Russians; they not only visit more frequently than usual, but amuse themselves with a variety of exhibitions and games; in particular, puppets are carried to the different houses, representing the birth of our Saviour attended by angels, as well as other scriptural pieces; these are exhibited as moving on wires, and accompanied by hymns and music. Many of the inhabitants divert themselves by visiting their acquaintance under the disguise of masks, when they

participate in any amusement that may be going forward. There are, also, both public and private balls and theatricals.

The Angara was, this evening, frozen up to within three miles of the town. A gentleman who happened to try the temperature of its water, was astonished to find it indicate two degrees of warmth. I endeavoured to explain to him and a large party, where he named this as an extraordinary fact, that until the act of congelation had taken place, some degree of *warmth* must necessarily remain in water, or any other fluid; I was obliged, however, to enter into a long detail of the philosophical principle before I could convince my incredulous audience.

On the 7th, the cold was still more intense, the spirit thermometer indicating thirty-five degrees of frost, equal to forty-seven degrees below zero of Fahrenheit. The rapid Angara is now frozen above the town, so that one or two fool-hardy fellows have ventured across it. This closure of the river is an event of much importance to Irkoutsk, as for more than six weeks before its occurrence, a thick mist,

arising from condensed exhalations that have taken place from its surface, envelopes the town, and which ceases after congelation, leaving a comparatively clear atmosphere.

We were now experiencing the fullest rigour of a Siberian winter.

> "For winter, hoary and severe,
> Rules an imperious despot here.
> In chains the headlong flood he binds,
> And rides impetuous on the winds;
> Before him awful forests bend,
> And tempests in his train contend."

After the effects of winter disappear, the Siberian spring is generally very fine, this favourable weather continuing until June or July, when much rain is experienced; after which warm weather succeeds, until the variable autumn makes its appearance, and at length again ushers in the rigid winter.

I devoted the present day, according to the usage of the country, in making calls upon all those with whom I had the honour of being acquainted. Some commenced their routine of visits as early as seven in the morning, in order to accomplish as many as possible in

the course of the first day; none must be neglected, should it even occupy the whole week to get through them; but the sooner the compliment is paid, the more respectful is it considered.

On Saturday, the 10th, after dining with the governor-general, he invited me, as he had frequently done before, to accompany him to take tea with Colonel M——. On the present occasion the party consisted of ourselves only. I had observed, that since the arrival of the feld-jager, his excellency's manner had been somewhat more reserved towards me, and that in our private conversations he never alluded to any part of the empire eastward of Irkoutsk, or encouraged me to expatiate on my own views. I apprehended, in consequence, that some mystery remained undisclosed, and had my occasional surmises that I should not be permitted to penetrate farther into the country. I was now destined to have these surmises confirmed. In the course of conversation, his excellency remarked to Colonel M——, that I was anxious to visit Kamschatka, but the emperor would not permit me to un-

dertake so hazardous a journey, and that he was surprised, under my peculiar circumstances, I should have proceeded so far as Irkoutsk; and, therefore, his goodness had induced him to send an officer for my protection, since in the event of my being murdered in his dominions, he should feel himself blameable in having allowed me to proceed to such an extent. This was communicated to Colonel M—— as a point of news; I could perceive, however, that the whole conversation was the result of a preconcerted arrangement between these gentlemen, who were desirous of taking this opportunity of breaking to me the fuller particulars of his imperial majesty's mandate.

Colonel M—— then enquired of me when I proposed to return, to which I replied, that I should be ready to do so immediately after the Chinese festival, that is held at the commencement of their new year, and which I was anxious to attend. Colonel M—— now remarked, that this festival would not take place for more than a month, and that it would not be delicate for me to remain so long, after the emperor had been kind enough to send a feld-

jager so far to attend me. To this I answered, that I had neither requested any one to be sent for my protection, nor could I admit the necessity of such a measure, for that I had found my way hitherto without the assistance of the government, or any knowledge of the language, and as I now began to comprehend it in an useful degree, I had no doubt of being as well able to make good my return on the same principle. Moreover, I added, that I could not feel sensible of any want of delicacy in wishing to remain until the Chinese festival had terminated, particularly as I had now been waiting four months at Irkoutsk for the proper time to set out for the frontiers of China, the period for which had now arrived, in consequence of the freezing up of the Baikal Lake; and that, on the score of delicacy, I could not consent to relinquish an object which I had so long been cherishing; in short, that my return to Europe without accomplishing it, would be like passing four months at Naples and not visiting Pompeii. The Colonel, however, persisting in urging the plea of delicacy, I replied, that I neither considered myself

without proper ideas of delicacy, or a knowledge of the customs and courtesies of civilized nations.

Colonel M—— then began to assure me that the decision of the emperor had been dictated by the greatest kindness and consideration of my situation. I replied, that if so he surely would leave it to my option to return at my own convenient leisure, and not compel me to immediate compliance, like a criminal; and which, I observed, would not be the line of conduct adopted by the king of England to a Russian subject under similar circumstances; I added, that the gratification I had promised myself from a journey to the Chinese frontier, was such that nothing but the most urgent necessity would induce me to forego it. I stated, however, another objection to commencing my return at an earlier period; the impossibility of my sooner receiving my expected remittances from Moscow, and which would be indispensable. At this point the conversation ended, and we soon after took our leave of Colonel M——, who, I

must do him the justice to say, conducted himself in this affair like a gentlemanly and intelligent man. On my return to the governor-general's, I took an opportunity of renewing the subject, and expressing my surprise that the Colonel should be so urgent for my immediate departure; this, however, did not elicit any satisfactory observation from his excellency.

Monday 12th.—A Cossack arrived to-day who had crossed the Baikal Lake in a small sledge, but not without infinite risk, nor could he come directly across the narrowest part, as a large space remained unfrozen in the middle of it. The ice had once given way under him, and himself and his horse were only extricated from their perilous situation with great difficulty. A Cossack is always dispatched from the opposite side, as soon as the Baikal is frozen, to report the same to the governor of Irkoutsk, until which time no one is allowed to cross over; measures are then immediately taken for laying out a road, by placing a line of fir trees on each side; there

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are, however, no cabins erected for shelter or refreshment, as is the case on the Neva, between St. Petersburg and Cronstadt.

On the 13th a masquerade was given at the assembly-room, when three hundred and eighty tickets were disposed of, at one rouble each, the produce being intended for the benefit of the invalided soldiers of the Russian army.

As far as the descriptions I received of this entertainment went, there were a variety of characters admirably supported, and indeed it must have been an interesting spectacle to an European, to have witnessed such a representation of the various Asiatic tribes as here appeared in their national costumes and characters; for instance, the Chinese with his samples of tea, rhubarb, silks, &c.; or the Tongoose with his bow and quiver, and drawing his little sledge after him; the Kamtschadale, and other tribes, with most of the ordinary characters of the day, completed the motley group.

The following is a specimen of one of the humourous scenes that were exhibited. Two

persons, with very droll masks, entered the room seated on a table, and playing a game at cards, called "Nosey," which table moved from place to place, without any apparent aid; by their side was a bottle of brandy, from which they occasionally drank to each other. When the game was up, the forfeiture was paid by a smart blow on the loser's carbuncled nose, accompanied by some humourous *bon mot*, after which a glass of brandy was administered, to comfort his battered proboscis; the effect of which was so truly comic, that the whole party, not excepting the vestal virgins themselves, were convulsed with laughter.

At length the day arrived which was decisive of my future movements, and left the intentions of his imperial majesty no longer equivocal.

I had been, for many days, under a state of anxious suspence, and should have been blind indeed had I not perceived that his excellency had something to communicate which he knew would acutely wound my feelings. I was fully aware that clouds were hanging

heavily over me, and this feeling prepared me to sustain the weight of the storm which was now to burst forth.

On Friday, the 14th, I was sitting with his excellency, when he enquired whether I was prepared to set out with the feld-jager, as he could not remain any longer; to which I replied, that it was not my intention to return as yet, unless I was compelled to do so. He then said, "You are compelled." I urged that I had not sufficient money with me to pay the expences of so long a journey. This objection he made light of, assuring me, that he had no alternative but to enforce the emperor's orders, and that he would accommodate me with whatever money I might require. I rejoined, that it was not my habit to borrow money, and that as the government obliged me to go, and treated me in the light of a prisoner, I conceived it ought to be responsible for the expences incurred. This, he said, would not be done; and that instead of being considered as a prisoner, the directions of the emperor were, to treat me as an independent gentleman, travelling for my pleasure, and

with every possible attention; only that I was to be conducted from out of the empire, with the choice of two points to leave it at: viz. either the Austrian or the Prussian frontier. I gave the preference to the former, but expressed my anxious wish to be permitted to make a detour before arriving at that point; and then proceeded to detail to his excellency the plan I have before mentioned. This, however, was declared to be impossible. Anxious to make some variation from my former route, I then solicited to be allowed to take the less extensive circuit by Omsk, Orienburg, and Saratoff; but the only modification which I could obtain, was permission to go by Omsk and Ishim, which made the distance much the same as by Tobolsk. I then enquired whether I should be allowed to visit my friends at the different points of my journey; this was consented to, but the feldjager was to accompany me. I was also obliged to stipulate for permission to take Moscow on my route, in order to enable me to make my requisite pecuniary arrangements for future proceedings. After this, I agreed

to set off at the time appointed, which was on the following Sunday or Monday at the farthest.

On my return home I wrote to Sir Charles Bagot, to acquaint him with what had happened, requesting his excellency would favour me with an answer at Moscow; but I had little expectation that my letter would be delivered according to the due course of the post.

On reflection, I could in no way account for the motives of the Russian government, in denying a humble individual like myself, whose affliction and circumstances placed him peculiarly in their power, the gratification of travelling in its territories, according to his inclinations. I did not conceive that they could suspect me of any motives or conduct obnoxious to their feelings; yet it appeared singular, that I should be regarded of sufficient importance to have a lieutenant of the corps of feld-jagers sent a distance of four thousand miles to attend my movements and watch over me.

What was the real motive for such an exer-

tion of arbitrary power will, probably, never be developed. I am unwilling to believe that I had given offence to any individual who would be so base as to misrepresent me to his imperial majesty; and felt assured that no public, or private expression had ever escaped my lips, which could be justly construed into disrespect of his majesty's person, or the measures of his government. In fact, I was too well aware, before I entered the empire, of the nature of an arbitrary government, to expose myself to the risk of its resentment, and where I knew every stranger was under the eye of a vigilant police. I did not, however, imagine that these circumstances would militate against my enjoying the society of friends, or deriving all the pleasure and interest which the localities of their country afforded. Had I, indeed, been disposed to search out the faults of the land, I certainly had ample time and opportunity to do so; but to me such an occupation would have afforded no gratification. Nor did I enter Siberia with any view of forming a catalogue of crimes, since a Newgate Calendar has no charms for me. I would

rather commiserate, or throw a veil over, the failings of a nation, than expose them to obloquy.

My chief motives, for undertaking this arduous journey, were the love of novelty and desire of obtaining information respecting the customs and manners of an immense empire, at present so little known, and which feelings were heightened by the recollections of interest formerly derived during eight years' services on the coast of North America, for I expected to find a great similarity between the climate and productions of the two countries. I anticipated that the farther I penetrated into the interior, the more I should be interested with the primitive simplicity and manners of the Russian and Tartar tribes. I had partly accomplished my anticipations, but the more interesting part was about to be entered upon. I had hitherto only, as it were, been feeling my way, but now was becoming sufficiently acquainted with the language of the country, to facilitate my collection of more original information. The only consolation that was offered me in return for my cruel

disappointment was, that it was the emperor's own act; an assurance, the truth of which I have no reason to call in question; but I cannot,—will not, believe that the magnanimous and benevolent Alexandre would have interfered with my rational and innocent gratifications, and much more that he would have sanctioned the harsh measures to which I was afterwards subjected, unless his feelings had been influenced, or his confidence abused, by misrepresentation!

"I will be hang'd if some eternal villain,
Some busy and insinuating rogue,
Some cogging, cozening slave, to get some office,
Hath not devised a slander."

CHAPTER VI.

Description of Irkoutsk—The town—The police—Supplies of provisions—Neighbourhood of Irkoutsk—Communications with the distant parts of the government—The exiles of Siberia—Grotto of Balangansk—The effects of an earthquake — The river Sljondenka — Selenginsk—The British missionaries at that place—Kiakhta and Maimatchin—Mongul-Tartary—Extraordinary combat between a Cossack and a panther—Anecdotes of bears.

IRKOUTSK, the capital of Eastern Siberia, in the latitude of fifty-one degrees eight minutes, is situated on the right bank of the Angara, at a point opposite to where the Irkout falls into that river, upon a plain surrounded by mountains of moderate height, and which abound with slate and coal. Its agreeable climate, picturesque situation, the good breeding and wealth of its inhabitants, and its adaptation for commerce, conspire to make it the most important and flourishing city of Siberia; as

well as one of the first towns of the Russian empire.

Irkoutsk was originally founded by the Cossacks of Sarisky, for the convenience of collecting tribute from the Bonates of the Irkout, from which river it derives its name. It contains, at the present period, about twenty thousand inhabitants, in proportion to whom its size is very considerable, as nearly every house has a large court-yard, and both kitchen and flower-garden, attached to it. The churches are numerous, but so badly built, as to require support in various ways to prevent them from falling. Most of them have been erected at the sole expence of rich and pious merchants. The principal streets are wide, the main one running in a direction parallel with the Angara, but none of them are as yet paved or laid with wood. Many of the residences of the richer merchants are built of brick, while others, equally large, are constructed with wood, but replete with every comfort and convenience.

The police of Irkoutsk is so excellently regulated, that you cannot walk out after dark,

without being challenged in all directions by watchmen. As a substitute for our rattle, and as a mode of communicating with each other, these guardians of the night carry with them a mallet, with which they beat a plank of wood, when the signal is repeated in succession by each of them: this strict vigilance is necessary, in consequence of the great number of exiles with which the city and its neighbourhood abound, and who not unfrequently commit depredations.

The town is well supplied with provisions of all kinds; vegetables, in particular, are cultivated in abundance and variety; the hop also thrives well in the neighbourhood. No fruits, however, except the natural and wild productions of the country, are to be met with, probably, in consequence of the trouble, or expence, of procuring grafts from distant countries; but the deficiency is, in some measure, supplied by the abundance of gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries, &c. with which the woods and gardens abound. There is also an apple peculiar to this country, about the size of a small cherry, but which is not

eatable until after the frosts have set in, when its fruit much resembles the pulp of the hip: this apple is not only preserved with sugar, but also used as a pickle.

The neighbourhood and government of Irkoutsk is probably the most interesting of any in Siberia. The Baikal Lake, and the Mines of Nertschink, in particular, offer rich stores to the naturalist and mineralogist; and although Professor Pallas has laboured with much effect in exploring them, a wide field still remains open to the man of science.

I had promised myself the opportunity of collecting many valuable specimens of the minerals of this country, as well as other natural curiosities, and also the dresses and implements of the native tribes, had not the hasty return to which I was compelled, deranged my plans; the consequence has been, that my stock of curiosities is comparatively limited.

It is surprising that greater attention has not been paid to facilitate the communication from Irkoutsk with these interesting parts of its government, as well as other districts of the country. The passage over the Baikal

Lake,* is often very tedious and even dangerous; for although it is not more than thirty-six miles across, from its opposite shores, vessels have sometimes, in consequence of violent gales, occupied many days, in the voyage. The more satisfactory mode of making the journey is in winter, when it may be made on the ice in two or three hours. There is, however, some danger in this, not only from the ice giving way at points that are imperfectly frozen, but also from the gusts of wind which sweep with irresistible violence along its polished surface, for the snow never rests here. I heard of one man who, getting off his sledge, was carried away by the wind so as to be unable to regain it, when he consequently perished with cold.

There is, however, a road, or rather track, to the other side of the Baikal, across a mountain named Hamardaban, but so steep

* The Baikal Lake is five hundred and eighty-five versts long and about a hundred wide, and has the form of a half-moon. The inhabitants call it a sea. However, the water is neither salt, nor has it any marine plants attached to it. The lakes of America might, with equal propriety, be denominated seas. The only reason that has been advanced for considering it a sea is, that seals have been found in it.

and rugged as to be difficult in the extreme; but the merchants occasionally make use of it for transporting their goods. What an essential advantage it would be to the country if this road was improved, and also if good communications were established with Yakoutsk, and Okotsk, and which might be effected by employing a portion of the exiles, as there appears to be more of them in this part of Siberia than are necessary for other public works!

I shall avail myself of this opportunity of making some additional remarks on the situation of those unfortunate people, the exiles of Siberia. The worst criminals are sent to the mines, where they are occupied under the most rigid discipline in the various operations of mining, and extracting and separating the different ores from their respective matrices. Those of a secondary order are employed in the manufactories and distilleries, while such as have been banished for offences of the lighter character are, according to the manner in which they are best calculated to be useful, dispersed in the different towns and

villages, where, if they conduct themselves well, and can acquire the means of cultivating it, grants of land are made to them, with the only reserve of a poll-tax of ten roubles per annum, payable on each male of the family who has attained a certain age; others get hired by the richer peasants, or are employed as drivers at the post-stations, or in other occupations.

I was surprised to learn that this extensive government contained only one saw-mill, the peasants still making use of the hatchet to fashion their planks; a process not only rude, but one which must waste a great deal of time, the value of which, in a country so thinly populated, cannot be too much appreciated. In North America, on the contrary, almost every settlement has its saw-mill attached to it.

The grotto of Balagansk, a hundred and eighty versts from Irkoutsk and about seven versts from the town of that name, is a very interesting natural curiosity. Its entrance is formed by a rock that rises seventy feet perpendicular, and is about a hundred and eighty

in width, and of such form as to have the appearance from a distance of a large edifice in ruins. The aperture consists of three large fissures; these lead into three separate galleries, which, after running a length of one thousand and fifty feet, unite at the commencement of the principal cavern, that then extends itself for the distance of two versts, after which all further progress is impeded by immense masses of ice.

Not less interesting are the ruins of a mountain near the Angara, at the distance of a hundred and sixty-five versts from Irkoutsk, and which fell down on the 20th of March, 1820, with a noise resembling thunder, accompanied, (as the Bratsky who witnessed the phenomenon, report,) by smoke and flame visible in the horizon.

Taking its source from the Hamardaban Mountain is the small river Sljondenka, which abounds in minerals and precious stones. This river, after a short course of thirty versts, falls into the Baikal.

Another place of interest in this government, is the town of Selinginsk, situated on the line of the Chinese frontier. This place

is the residence of the English missionaries, Messrs. Stallybrass, Swan, and Yuille, who with their wives and families form a small British colony, and are endeavouring, with the permission and under the protection of the emperor, to convert the idolatrous Boriates, or (as the Russians term them) Bratsky, to Christianity. These people are of Mongul origin, being the descendants of the followers of Boriates, who being defeated and pressed hard by other Mongul princes, effected his escape into this country. Notwithstanding the many obstructions, arising from the ignorance, religious prejudices, poverty, and migratory habits of these people, the labours of these worthy gentlemen have already been crowned with considerable success; a press has lately been established at their head quarters, passages of scripture have been distributed in the Mongolian language, and considerable progress is making towards the translation of the Bible; while at the same time native schools are opened for giving instruction to the youth of the country.*

* See Appendix I.

Kiachta and Maimatchin I have already alluded to as being more immediately on the borders of Russia and China; one belonging respectively to each empire; their only importance is derived from their being the medium of commercial arrangements between these immense empires, and which are always conducted on the principle of barter.

The whole country between these points and the Baikal, which has the name of Mongul Tartary, is wild and rugged in the extreme, and often dangerous to the traveller in consequence of the great number of wild animals that inhabit it. A singular rencontre took place sometime since, in the neighbourhood of the Chinese frontier, between a Cossack and a panther, an animal which is exceedingly rare in this country. A young Cossack inspecting one day a trap in the woods, and observing the footsteps of an animal which were strange to him, returned to communicate the circumstance to his father, who mounted his horse with an axe in his hand, and followed by his dog, went in search of him. He was soon discovered between some rocks, whence

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he retreated to another lair, but pursued by the Cossack.

As the latter approached, the animal made a spring upon the horse, placing one foot on his fore part, and the other on the hind part, with his mouth between, widely opened upon his pursuer, who instantly thrust his left hand and arm down his throat, and, with his axe, at length destroyed him. The intrepid fellow's arm was, however, so much lacerated that he has entirely lost the use of it. The animal, which proved to be a panther, was subsequently sent to St. Petersburg, where it is now preserved in the museum; and his imperial majesty has directed that the Cossack should be provided for, as a reward for his bravery, and a recompence for the injury sustained in this extraordinary combat.

This country, amongst other wild beasts, abounds with bears, many of whom during the severe winter of 1821, impelled by hunger, made their appearance in the immediate vicinity of Irkoutsk. One was killed within a peasant's cottage, and two in the very streets

of the town. They were so emaciated that the skins were of no value.

A singular accident took place in the summer of the same year:—A peasant, who resided at about five versts from the town, had a dancing bear, which was considered so tame that he had been exhibiting it, on the day in question, within the house of the commandant of Irkoutsk, for the amusement of the children. On their return home, Mr. Bruin becoming stubborn and refusing to ascend a hill so fast as his master wished him, the latter proceeded to beat him, when the infuriated animal, although muzzled, turned round, seized upon him, and literally crushed him to a mummy.

CHAPTER VII.

Preparations to leave Irkoutsk—Mrs. B.—Corps of feld-jagers —Rapid driving—The sledge frequently overturned—Birioussa—Traveller from Kamschatka—Mode of transporting children—March of exiles—Crasno-Yarsk—The governor's museum—Sledge set fast in the snow—Dismal journey by night—Tomsk—Tereshkina—Robbery of the mail—Tsharnski—Morachin—Difficult road to Omsk—Omsk—Visit to the Kirguise tents—Abatskaja—Tokali —Ishim—Snow storms—Mode of heating apartments—Dispute between the feld-jager and a man at the post-house —Woman possessed by the devil —Schadrin—Porcelain manufactory—The Author not allowed to visit Mr. M.—Ekaterinburg—Russian vapour baths—Travelling dress of the Author—He is taken ill—Impatience of the feld-jager to proceed—Superb Vases of Malachite.

THE day preceding my departure was occupied, as far as the agitated state of my mind would permit, in making the necessary preparations for my journey; in particular I arranged definitively, with his excellency the governor-general, the route I was to take, and

the kind of treatment which I was to receive from the feld-jager. His excellency also advanced me a loan of five hundred roubles, about twenty pounds sterling, which with the money I had in reserve, I calculated would be sufficient to defray my expences to Moscow. On this occasion, when I renewed to his excellency my remonstrances against the line of conduct adopted with respect to me, he very gravely recommended me, as soon as I had passed the frontiers, to write to St. Petersburg for permission to re-enter the empire; but this was a suggestion which did not suit the state of temperament I was then in.

On the 18th of January, being the sixth of the month, according to the Russian mode of computation, I called early in the forenoon at the house of the governor-general, with the view of taking my last leave of him, and expressing the sense I entertained of his many kind attentions to me during my residence at Irkoutsk; his excellency, however, had just set off for Nertschink, but did me the honour of sending to me an officer, as his proxy, to bid me farewell.

I afterwards met a large party at dinner at the governor's, of the whole of whom I took leave in the most friendly manner; after which I went to bid adieu to my fair countrywoman, Mrs. B——, who expressed the greatest concern at my departure in so unpleasant and mysterious a manner.

This lady was born in London, and married, at the early age of fifteen, in her native city, a Russian gentleman, who was in England to transact some business for the Emperor Paul. She was afterwards re-married at St. Petersburg, according to the rites of the Greek church; being very young aud handsome, many imagined that she had been carried off from England contrary to the consent of her friends, and she was often interrogated by some of the Russian nobility to that effect. She afterwards accompanied her husband to Siberia, where his family resided, and where he received an appointment under the government, which he retained until a short time before his death, which occurred about ten months previous to my arrival at Irkoutsk.

Mrs. B—— has been left in affluent circumstances, as far as relates to her property in this country; and continues to receive every kind attention from the inhabitants; but would gladly return to her native country, could she dispose of her Siberian possessions. It is to be regretted that his imperial majesty is not made acquainted with the peculiarity of this lady's situation, as his benevolence would doubtless induce him to promote her wishes in this respect.

I cannot leave Irkoutsk without expressing my most grateful acknowledgments for the marked attention and excessive hospitality which I had so long experienced from its inhabitants, and particularly from the governor and his amiable family, Colonel N——, and many others, and for whom I shall ever entertain the highest sense of gratitude.

At four o'clock I entered my sledge, a vehicle I had taken in exchange for my former summer equipage, the pavoshka, with the feldjager seated at my side, when we immediately crossed the now frozen Angara, whose rapid

stream I had so often passed over in boats, and on whose banks I had enjoyed so many a refreshing and delightful walk.

> "The stranger is gone—Oh, he will not forget,
> When at home he shall talk of the toil he has known,
> To tell with a sigh what endearments he met,
> As he stray'd on the banks of Angara alone."

Our sledge was covered with a head like that of a cradle, with curtains in front to protect us from the weather, while the part which was extended over our feet, formed a seat for the driver and a young Kalmuc slave, whom the feld-jager was conveying to his master at St. Petersburg, and who was to act as our servant by the way. We were also heavily laden with luggage of different sorts, as my own and the feld-jager's portmanteaus, several cases belonging to the governor-general and Colonel M——, which were to be delivered to their respective friends at Moscow, and also a large one containing the few curiosities I had collected in Siberia.

It will be proper to give some description of the nature of my companion's service. The corps of feld-jagers consists of twenty-four

officers, and ninety privates, the whole commanded by a major. The privates, however, hold the civil rank of officers, so that they are all admissible into the theatres, or genteel society. The officers are ordinarily employed in attendance on the emperor, or as couriers to foreign countries; while the privates are attached to the ministry, or dispatched as messengers into the various parts of the empire. The major resides constantly at the capital, where he has a chancery, or public office, for the transaction of the business of the corps. The captains also, seldom leave St. Petersburg, for they are generally veterans in the service before they attain that rank, and the subordinates are always ready and willing to undertake whatever foreign mission may be required, as it proves highly lucrative to them. The members of the corps are generally the sons of merchants, or other respectable persons, who have no prospect for their children in the higher professions.

On commencing our journey we gallopped off with four horses abreast, and it appeared to be a great object with the feld-jager to keep

them up to that pace; in consequence, when we had advanced about fifty miles from Irkoutsk, one of the horses fell with fatigue, and we left him for dead by the road side. This accident naturally led me to enquire who were to be at the loss of post-horses that died under such circumstances. I was told in reply, that the traveller was expected to compensate it. There appears, however, to be a regular rate at which post-horses are to be driven; viz. with a post-licence seven miles an hour; with a courier's passport eight miles the hour; but a feld-jager may drive as fast as he pleases, so that he seldom fails to kill a few horses. If any ordinary traveller urges the driver forward, whether he is proceeding faster or not so fast as the fixed rate, and an accident of this kind happens, he must pay for it. With respect to the feld-jager, as he travels on the government account, an allowance of fifty roubles is made to the peasants for each horse disposed of in this way; but in the present instance, my companion very gravely told me, that, as he was conducting me, it was my place to pay for all dead horses; and it appeared for

repairs of the equipage also, which from the rate we travelled at, became frequently necessary, as we commenced them at eighty versts from Irkoutsk. I could not, however, scruple the latter expence, as the sledge was my own.

The night was intensely cold, the mercury freezing in the thermometer. At two hundred versts, while descending a mountain, we were nearly driven over a precipice; fortunately a railing stopped the horses, and saved us; but it took us some time to extricate ourselves from the snow and irregular part of the road into which we had been led.

A few hours afterwards, while descending another mountain, a sudden turn in the road brought us in contact with a peasant's sledge, which, although we passed over it, fairly upset and materially injured our own carriage, and at the same time threw down two of our horses. As a return for his carelessness, the feld-jager beat our driver unmercifully with his steel-sheathed sword. In the course of the same day we were again overturned.

On the following day (the 20th) the weather was extremely fine, but severely cold. We

were this day twice upset, when approaching the town of Lower Odjnsk, partly, I conceived, in consequence of the terror with which the jeld-jager had inspired the driver by his repeated chastisements with his sabre. As I was now becoming accustomed to it, I lay quiet in the sledge, while the feld-jager got out to beat the driver and assist him in putting all right again.

I could not but regret that his imperial majesty had not left me to jog back quietly by myself, with my postillion, who never once overturned me. I found, however, one decided advantage in the company of this officer—that he proved an excellent caterer on the road, never failing to procure us a decent dinner, as well as every other requisite refreshment. We had to-day some excellent boiled beef and roasted goat, or rather a meat that was intermediate to the flesh of that animal and the deer, and which is either shot by the peasants, or taken with traps in the woods.

At the village of Birioussa, one verst from the river of that name, we found a Russian naval officer, who was travelling, with his wife

and three children, from Kamschatka to St. Petersburg, having left the former place in the course of the last summer. The children had been transported, as is usual in this journey, from Okotsk to Jakutsk in cradles, fixed upon horses' backs; and this poor woman was at the time in a state of advanced pregnancy: thus we see what human nature can do, or support, under a stimulus to exert itself. The migrating Tungoose tribes, when they change their stations, adopt a similar mode of conveying their children; that is, by slinging them in baskets on one side of their deer, with a counterpoise on the other.

On the 21st a very strong wind blew from the southward, which, towards noon, changed to the north-west, with such increase of violence, that we were overturned by its mere force; and, although the sky was perfectly clear over head, the snow from off the ground blew around us in such quantity as to give all the effect of a snow-storm. At this time we passed a string of convicts on their march, under the guard of a party of Cossacks. These poor wretches were handcuffed in pairs, with

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a long light chain carried through the whole length of the party; this chain used to be very oppressive, until the directions of the present emperor diminished its weight. It is, however, not always a full security, as happened some time since, when the leader of a band of a hundred convicts, who were linked together in this way, contrived to unfasten the padlock that had secured the chain, and let the whole of his companions loose. The guard, consisting of twenty-five soldiers, were about to compel them to be re-chained, when they immediately armed themselves with stones and assumed a posture of defence, declaring that they would sooner die than submit to be chained again, but that if allowed to advance without their fetters, they would every one proceed in the most quiet and orderly manner. The commanding officer, to prevent bloodshed, humanely acceded to their proposal, and they did not give him any reason to repent his lenity.

In this part of the country I discovered that, in several of the peasants' houses, pieces of bladder were substituted in the window-frames

for glass. I was informed, that on the commencement of winter they always remove the latter, as it will not stand the intense cold without breaking.

At three o'clock in the morning of the 22d we arrived at the station next Crasno-Yarsk, where we reposed ourselves until seven o'clock, after which we proceeded to that town, and immediately waited upon the governor, who most kindly invited us to dine with him, when I had the pleasure of passing an agreeable day with his family, who, the reader will recollect, were former acquaintances when I was on my way to Irkoutsk. I had again the pleasure of examining his excellency's cabinet of curiosities, from the shirt of the inhabitants of the coasts of the Frozen Ocean, which is made of the intestines of the whale, to the feathered robe of the more luxurious native of the southern parts of this government. I also examined the spear with which the Tungoose chief attacks the bear, the staff of which is five feet, and the head two feet, in length; also a great variety of the weapons and implements of this latter people. I was

informed that the bear will never attack the rein-deer, although the droves of each are frequently within sight of each other.

His excellency had several flying-squirrels alive; one had lately died, and been stuffed; this he was kind enough to present to me; the animal, however, is so well known, that it is unnecessary for me to describe it.

The cold had been very severe at this place, and had even reached forty-five degrees of Priestley's thermometer. No considerable quantity of snow had fallen; and, if it had, the winds are so high and frequent, that very little would have remained on the ground. I took leave of my kind friends here this night, as we proposed commencing our journey at an early hour in the morning.

At the second station from Crasno-Yarsk we found the feld-jager's sledge, which, in consequence of the injury it had sustained, he had left here when on his way to Irkoutsk. As we had no occasion for two sledges, and mine was the more commodious, we determined to proceed as before; the feld-jager,

consequently, was obliged to dispose of his own at a great loss.

At six in the evening we passed the post on its way to Irkoutsk, which occupied three sledges. In the course of this evening we got set fast in the snow, and, having indifferent horses, were compelled to send to a neighbouring village for others, before we could get extricated. At ten we arrived at the town of Atchinsk. I was here not a little surprised to hear that, while taking our tea in the post-house, some daring person had stolen the shawl, which the feld-jager wore round his neck, from the very room we were sitting in; nor, in spite of every enquiry, could it be recovered; so that, notwithstanding the night was as dismal a one as could be conceived, he was fain to set off without it. This led me to congratulate myself, when I reflected that the feld-jager, with his eyes open, had been thus robbed, that no villain had presumed to carry my sightless head from off my shoulders, for the sake of purloining my hat.

The night proved most inclement, the wind

being dreadfully high, and the snow blowing in upon us incessantly; and it was so dark withal, that our driver could with difficulty keep the proper road. We regretted that we had not made the best of the miserable accommodations the post-house would have afforded.

On the 24th the weather was somewhat more moderate, with an increased quantity of snow lying upon the roads. In the course of the evening we got into a snow-pit, and had much difficulty in extricating ourselves; the next day we also experienced a similar accident, and were considerably detained in consequence.

On Sunday, the 25th, at three in the afternoon, it being just a week from the time of our leaving Irkoutsk, we entered the town of Tomsk, and put up at an eating-house, where we had an excellent dinner of sterlet soup. In the evening I paid a visit to the vice-governor, whose amiable family received me in the most friendly manner, but were not a little surprised at the circumstances under which I had returned.

I felt myself this night considerably indisposed, and in the morning was still very unwell, and in consequence took a vapour-bath *a la Russe.* The feld-jager was desirous to hurry me away, but I pleaded illness, and refused to proceed, which I believe did not please him; at least, it was attended by the first symptom of dissatisfaction I experienced from him during this journey.

On Tuesday morning, the 27th, previous to setting out, I purchased a pair of warm boots made of the skin of the wild-goat, with the hair on the inside; I afterwards found them very serviceable: they are much used by those who travel in Siberia.

At ten in the morning we left Tomsk, and in the evening arrived at the village of Tereshkina. In October last the guard of the mail, who belonged to this station, cut open the bags, and abstracted a parcel, containing a large sum in bank-notes; the man, however, had the folly, instead of keeping quiet to conceal the transaction, to retire to a neighbouring station, where, in company with a petty officer, who was quartered there, he began to

expend the fruits of his roguery, passing several days in continued drunkenness; the circumstance of course transpired, and the two friends were committed to prison, where they were still lying. What punishment they will be subjected to remained to be known.

On the 28th, at three in the morning, we were again detained for some time in a snow-pit. At seven we breakfasted at the small town of Tsharnski, within a mile of the river Oby; and on the following day, successively passed through the town of Kainsk and village of Vosresenski.

On the 30th, when two stations beyond the last named place, at a village named Morachin, we quitted the Tobolsk road, and took one on the left to Omsk; it proved very indifferent, insomuch that, instead of proceeding with four horses abreast, we were obliged to take six, and to run them in line, in a manner which the Russians call gooseham.

On this road, or rather track, there are no post-houses, and we breakfasted, in consequence, at a peasant's cottage, where we were told that some wolves had devoured a couple

of horses a few nights before. The women at this house were busily employed in domestic occupations, and appeared as happy and comfortable as those who live in more favoured climes.

About one o'clock we passed through the village of Lower Omsk, which is close to the line of the Kirguise Steppe.

The roads throughout this day were very bad, nor were the peasants' horses equal to those of the regular post; the feld-jager, at the commencement, wanted to turn back to the Tobolsk road, but having especial permission to visit Omsk I would not consent, and as the chancery of the governor-general of Tobolsk had passed the same way on the preceding day, I urged that there was no reason why we might not accomplish it. I must acknowledge, however, that our progress was so much obstructed to the first station, that I apprehended we should make a more tedious journey of it than it really proved; but this mattered not, for I was anxious to get out of the beaten path, in the expectation of meeting with novelty.

The system at present adopted in European Russia, will doubtless before long extend itself to Siberia, so that future travellers may fairly anticipate, that this road, which connects the line of fortifications on the Kirguise Steppe, with the direct communication from Moscow to Irkoutsk, will before long experience improvement. The tax appropriated for this purpose consisted originally of a poll-tax, of twenty-five copecks per annum, with an addition of five copecks for improving the water communications. The traveller also contributes two copecks for each post-horse per verst for his licence. The whole, however, not being found sufficient for the extensive operations of government, the latter are obliged to advance considerable sums from the public treasury.

The expence of transferring goods through this extensive empire is more moderate than could be imagined: I was informed, that a peasant contracted to convey merchandize from Irkoutsk to Cazan for eight roubles the pood, a distance of not less than three thousand miles. The average price to Moscow is from

fourteen to eighteen roubles, and to St. Petersburg from eighteen to twenty.

The succeeding night also proved unpropitious to our comforts, as the wind and snow were both very annoying. At six in the morning we reached a large and excellent new house, belonging to a rich peasant, where we had a comfortable breakfast, and well warmed ourselves, previous to setting off for the town and fortress of Omsk, at which we arrived about ten o'clock. We first drove to the police, to procure quarters, but this was a point not easily arranged, as the greater part of the town had lately been destroyed by fire; at length, however, we were placed in one small apartment, which was to accommodate both of us.

The governor-general of western Siberia was at this time at Omsk, and the feld-jager appeared in haste to pay his respects to him; and as I was already known to his excellency, I expressed a wish to accompany him; to this, however, my companion made many trifling objections, and at length set off without me; his

excellency was ill in bed, and could not see him.

I had the gratification of receiving a visit from two officers, with whom I had been acquainted at Tobolsk, and who very obligingly and satisfactorily answered my enquiries respecting the various objects of interest which Omsk and its neighbourhood presents, and offered to facilitate the means of making me personally acquainted with them. In particular, I was anxious to visit some of the Kirguise huts on the Steppe itself; and one of these gentlemen engaged to procure me an equipage and interpreter to attend me for that purpose, early on the following morning. In the afternoon, although much against the wish of the feld-jager, who had no caloshes, nor any curiosity like myself, and yet would not let any one else accompany me, I walked over the town. I believe he considered it his painful duty not to lose sight of me for an instant, and I did not feel inclined to deprive myself of exercise and amusement to gratify his disinclinations.

Omsk, originally a mere fortress, is now

become a town of considerable magnitude. It is well situated for commerce, but the trade, consisting chiefly of furs collected partly from the Kirguise and partly from the Russian settlers in the vicinity, is by no means considerable. A great portion of the town was burnt down in May last; the destruction, however, had chiefly been confined to the opposite side of the Irtish to where the fortress stands.

Some few of the Kirguise Tartars, who have pitched their tents, for the convenience of traffic, in the vicinity of the town, may frequently be seen in the streets, where they are conspicuous from the peculiar cap they wear, and which rises from the head in the form of a cone. Some of them, of both sexes, are also occasionally met with as domestics in the Russian families. It is not long since these people were guilty of forming themselves into frequent marauding parties, when they carried off the cattle, and sometimes the peasants themselves; the system, however, has received a decided check, in consequence of the severe retributive examples that have been made by the present governor-general.

In the morning, the equipage and interpreter having arrived, although the weather was by no means favourable, we set off for the tents of the Kirguise Tartars, which were situated on the Steppe, at about four miles distance from the town. On arriving at the first tent, our interpreter acquainted its inmates with the object of the visit, when we were instantly admitted. The party within consisted of three men and as many women, one of the latter with an infant in her arms; these were sitting around a fire in the middle of the tent, and all seemed very good humoured; allowed us to examine what we pleased; answered our questions readily; and shewed every disposition to gratify our curiosity.

The frame of the tent was made of neat trellis-work, so constructed as to admit of being folded up into a small compass, for the convenience of conveyance, whenever they think proper to change their habitations; this was surrounded by thick matting; around one half of the inner circumference of the tent were placed beds of a coarse woollen stuff,

with a small partition of fine cane-work between the head and foot of each bed. Near the centre of the tent a large hole was dug in the ground, for the purpose of forming a place of warmth and security for the reception of the lambs; while the sheep and horses were kept in adjoining tents. They gave us some of their cheese to taste of, which was in small pieces, and very sour; they also shewed us their wooden saddles, of rude workmanship, besides a variety of other articles.

Before taking leave of them, I enquired of our interpreter, whether the ladies would be offended by a salute on my part; he thought not, and, for the novelty of the thing, I determined to venture upon the experiment. I commenced with the older one, paving the way by putting a piece of money into her hand; she took the whole very kindly, which encouraged me to proceed to the next in years and dignity, who was also by no means displeased on the occasion; the young woman, however, who I understood was very pretty and very reserved, hung down her head, with at least the affectation of modesty, and it was only with some

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DISCARD

difficulty that I succeeded in securing a half stolen kiss. After shaking hands with the men, I returned to the equipage, when we soon again arrived at Omsk.

The curious laws under which the Kirguise Tartars live may be seen in a Russian work by Yacobliff.

Before recommencing our journey, I was particularly anxious to pay my respects to his excellency the governor-general, who had shewn me some civility during my residence at Tobolsk. The feld-jager, however, made many excuses, and at length, when I persisted in urging the point, informed me that his excellency would not see me. This unpleasantly convinced me, of what I was unwilling to appear to know, that being under the cognizance of the police, I was considered as an object of suspicion, so that many of my friends were afraid to hold communication with me. I was also anxious to return the visits of the gentlemen who had called upon me the day before, but even here insurmountable objections were made.

After an early dinner, we proceeded on our

journey, and took tea at Abalskaja, which is the first post after leaving the line of the Kirguise Steppe, and where we re-entered the great road from Irkoutsk to Tobolsk. This point is only two hundred and ten versts from Morachin, whereas by taking the route of Omsk, we had made it three hundred and eleven versts, thus adding a hundred and one versts to our journey.

Monday, February 2d, the weather was fine, but intensely cold; feeling myself very unwell, I stopped at three in the morning at a place called Tokali, to repose until day-break; from hence we proceeded to Malychinka, a station beyond which we again quitted the Tobolsk road, and took that for Ishim, an inconsiderable town at the distance of ninety-three versts from Malychinka, and which would not deserve notice, were it not in the more direct line from Ekaterinburg to the eastern parts of Siberia, so as to save about a hundred and forty miles, as compared with the route of Tobolsk. It possessed, however, an additional and sentimental interest with me, as being the neighbourhood of the princi-

pal scenes pourtrayed in the beautiful and affecting tale of Elizabeth. This place we passed through in the course of the following night.

On the third, a high wind and thick snow so much impeded our progress, that from midnight to seven in the morning, we had only made two stations; the intense cold, and beating of snow in our faces, rendered this night a truly miserable one. On arriving at the post-house I could almost have crept into the oven that warms the house, and which they were just lighting. It is usual to make the fire up every morning, and which serves for the twenty-four hours, except the cold happens to be excessive, when it is repeated in the evening. The mode of heating the rooms with this oven, or stove, is as follows:—When every portion of the fuel is burnt to a cinder, so that no more smoke escapes, the chimney is closed with a large valve, that prevents the heat from escaping that way, while a smaller valve is opened in front to admit the warm air into the apartment; in addition to this, the external part

of the oven is so hot as to be constantly imparting considerable warmth to the circumambient air.

At the next station an animated dispute took place between my companion and the writer of the village, who, as there was no post-guard here, acted as his substitute. This important person insisted upon seeing our license for post-horses, and refused us any unless it was produced. The feld-jager, feeling his dignity insulted, pertinaciously refused compliance; when, after a no creditable altercation, he lost his point, and was obliged to content himself with hiring peasants' horses. I was present during the whole scene, and fully expected every instant to find the argumentative and convincing sabre made a party in the dispute, even in its naked state; in which case I know not how the affair would have ended, as the room was full of peasants, all of whom appeared to take the part of the man of both letters and words, who was secretary to the chief of their village.

After this fracas we proceeded on our journey, and in the evening arrived at a station

where the woman of the post-house told us that she was possessed by the devil; to confirm which she every now and then made a curious noise, and enquired if we did not hear him. Her account of this affair was as follows:—There lived a man in the village, a sorcerer, whom every one feared, lest he should do them some mischief. As she and her husband were one day driving in a sledge, they met this formidable personage, who, to their great terror, asked them to give him a ride. After eyeing each other with apprehension, doubting whether it would be most prudent to consent or refuse, as ill luck would have it, they determined to receive him into their carriage, and convey him as far as he wanted. That same night they were both taken ill, and began to make strange noises; her husband, however, in two or three days, recovered, but she had continued in the same state ever since, so that she could do nothing but walk about and howl horridly. My companion shrewdly enough conjectured that this visitation might be a mere excuse for idleness; there can, however, be no doubt that

her imagination had implicated her reason, and produced a decided state of demonomania.

On the 4th the weather became much milder, but I felt so unwell on arriving at a post-station at four o'clock in the morning, that I communicated to the feld-jager the necessity I was under of reposing until day-light, and taking some medicine.

The wife of the peasant at this place had been long confined to her bed from illness, and her case was communicated to me with a request that I would endeavour to relieve her; and I had the gratification, before quitting the house, to find her much better, in consequence of the medicine prescribed. I left her the greater part of my stock to go on with until she should get proper medical advice, which I strongly urged her husband to procure. There was, however, no medical man resident within two hundred miles of the place.

At dinner-time we arrived at the first station in the government of Perm, distant about a hundred and ninety miles from Ekaterinburg. At two on the following morning we made

Schadrin, near which a porcelain manufactory has lately been established; and, from the specimens I examined at the post-house, the materials appeared to be good and the workmanship respectable. With the exception of an indifferent one at Irkoutsk, this is the only establishment of the kind in Siberia. The weather and roads were to-day very indifferent, and we met, in addition, with a very uncomfortable dinner at a station about sixty miles from Ekaterinburg; the postmaster, however, made amends by producing a fair glass of wine, which, as our own stock was expended, under our state of fatigue proved a very seasonable refreshment.

I now met with the first marked indication of the hypocrisy of the government in professing not to consider me in the light of a prisoner. As we approached Ekaterinburg I was particularly anxious, instead of proceeding to the town, to have rested at the house of my estimable friend Mr. M——, where I had received so much kindness on a former occasion, and whom I had promised to revisit should I return that way. This, however, was not per-

mitted, and I was compelled to drive past his house without so much as being allowed to enter it. This was truly painful to me, and a violence inflicted on both my person and feelings, for which I know not how to offer the slightest palliation or excuse.

About ten o'clock in the evening we entered the town of Ekaterinburg, and drove to the police to procure lodgings, which, after a detention of two hours, in consequence of the absence of the proper official person, were at length provided for us.

The next day was remarkably fine, and the sun shone forth with so much warmth, that I was enabled to walk about the town with the highest satisfaction. When my friends heard of my arrival, they flocked to see me, and I had the pleasure of dining with a party of them, but not without my feld-jager at my elbow, whose duty it evidently was to attend me every where, and who, I must acknowledge, was always most attentive and obliging, unless I wanted to walk out in the snow, or to rest on my journey.

Finding myself unwell, I returned to my

lodgings at an early hour, notwithstanding I was taking leave of two or three interesting ladies, a kind of society which was now become quite novel to me, and consequently doubly agreeable. Before retiring to bed, I took a vapour bath, after the Russian method, and it proved very refreshing, as I always have found to be the case when I suffer from fatigue; it is in my opinion a real luxury, and much preferable to champooing. The Russians, of every class, indulge frequently in it from their infancy, at least once in the week, and at all seasons of the year. These baths are constructed in different grades of elegance and convenience; the common principle is, that they consist of an apartment comprising within it a vaulted oven, which some hours before it can be made use of, is heated to a high temperature. The vapour is produced by sprinkling water upon the surface of this oven, the degree of heat being regulated by the quantity submitted to evaporation. The sides of the room are fitted up with benches and steps, leading up to a platform near the ceiling, which, as the vapour ascends, is always

the hottest part of the bath, the temperature here being frequently almost insupportable. Hence, according to the height were he places himself, the bather may accommodate himself to the degree of heat, he finds most agreeable. The effect is to induce a copious perspiration, which is aided by flagellation and rubbing with leafy birchen twigs, applied by the hands of an attendant; to assist this operation these twigs are frequently dipt in a vessel of hot water, and then immediately applied, in almost a scalding state, to the naked surface of the body.

The Russians after subjecting themselves to this intense heat often plunge into the coldest water, or roll themselves in the snow. I have myself tried this principle, and found it indescribably grateful and refreshing; and, although the good people of England will scarcely credit it, I have never heard of any ill effects from this practice. I have even taken the bath in Siberia when the mercury was nearly freezing, and walked home immediately after it.

On the following day, Saturday, the 7th, the

feld-jager began to shew his impatience to proceed. I pleaded indisposition, and assured him, that had I not expected farther repose at this place, I would not have consented to travel so many days and nights in succession, as I had lately done; having been nine days on the road from Tomsk to this place, a distance of nearly fifteen hundred miles, with only one night's repose at Omsk, and this under such an intensity of cold, the thermometer seldom indicating less than the freezing point of mercury, that I could never, with all my clothing and precautions, keep the extremities warm.

It may not be uninteresting to my English readers to describe my personal equipment for such a formidable journey. In the first place, I wore two pair of woollen stockings, with two pair of fur boots, which came above my knees, the inner ones made of the skin of the wild goat, the outer ones of leather, lined with fur, and having thick soles to them; added to these, my legs were enveloped in a thick fur cloak. The body, independent of my ordinary clothing, was covered over with

a thickly wadded great-coat, over which I wore an immense shube, made of the skins of wolves, while the head was protected by a wadded cap.

I passed the evening of this day, with a few of my friends, at the house of a medical gentleman, where I was suddenly seized with giddiness and faintness, so that I nearly fell from my chair. My medical friend, however, brought me the necessary restoratives, after which I returned home and retired to bed; this illness was doubtless the effect of the excessive fatigue I had been subjected to, and proves the unfit state I was in for proceeding without further repose.

In the morning the feld-jager was inclined to insist on prosecuting our journey, but I positively refused to comply; indeed I felt myself very feverish, and otherwise unwell. He then told me, that if I remained I should confine myself to the house; but I assured him I would accept of no such conditions, and that as the weather was fine, I would certainly walk out, as I was convinced moderate exercise would be as serviceable to me as medicine,

and that I attributed my indisposition in great measure to the want of it. He then said, that he should call in a government medical man, to justify himself from any charge of unnecessary delay; to this I replied, that I had no objection, but that whatever opinion might be expressed of the nature of my complaint, I was determined not to depart that day, unless force was used to compel me.

The medical man was soon after introduced, and, probably in consequence of the feld-jager's suggestion, made use of various arguments to induce me to depart. He was obliged, however, to acknowledge that I was really much indisposed, although, as he said, not too ill to set off. At length I declared, that I did not consider myself under sufficient obligation to the Russian government to induce me to risk my life to oblige one of its feld-jagers. This appeared decisive, for they gave up their point, while I carried mine, for I took my walk, visited my friends, and deferred my journey as long as I thought necessary.

I examined this day, at the house of a friend, some of the finest specimens of Malachite (oxyd of copper) that had ever been worked. There were two vases, each more than two feet and a half in height, the bodies of which were composed of solid pieces two feet high. The price attached to them was ten thousand roubles, equal to four hundred pounds sterling.

There were also two tables, each consisting of a single slab of Malachite, two feet long, by eighteen inches broad, and which were valued at four thousand roubles.

Besides these rich specimens from the Ural Mountains, there were some of the most precious stones that Siberia could boast of; perhaps no place could be found where the mineralogist would collect greater treasures.

Nine kabitkas arrived this evening at our lodgings, in their way from St. Petersburg to Pekin, loaded with gold and silver images.

CHAPTER VIII.

Departure from Ekaterinburg—Reflections on leaving Siberia, and the hospitality of its inhabitants — Bilinbaefskoi—Peculiar water conveyance—The winter begins to break up—Perm—Okhane and Dubitskoi—Malmyche—Cazan—The Author and feld-jager nearly suffocated—Anecdote of an English gentleman—Disinterested treatment of travellers in Siberia—Mode of living of the peasantry—Manufactories of Cazan—The Author's friends shy of visiting him—Urgency of the feld-jager—Vasili-Soursk—Nigni-Novogorod — Inhumanity of the feld-jager to a postillion — Murom — The Sterlet—Vladimer—Pokrof—Boghorodsk — Arrival at Moscow — Feelings of the Author.

FEBRUARY 9th.—Finding myself better this morning, I prepared to take leave of Ekaterinburg, Siberia, and Asia! nor was it without emotions of the sincerest regret, that I felt myself about to quit, what has generally been deemed, one of the most savage and inhospitable countries inhabited by a civilized peo-

ple, but in the bosom of which I had met with kindness and the warmest friendship, with a spirit of as true philanthropy as actuates any other people it has yet been my lot to associate with. Rich in the productions of nature, its great deficiency is a scantiness of population, but even in this respect, instead of meeting with mere tribes of wandering Tartars, as is generally expected, you find many populous towns, whose inhabitants possess a refinement of manner scarcely surpassed by the first cities of Europe.

It is an old observation, that the greater the degree of civilization a country has attained, the less genuine is its principle of hospitality; since forms and ceremonies take the place of the natural feelings, and that warmth of soul which welcomes the stranger and the destitute; in Siberia, however, I could not but remark, that there was a greater combination of these contrary principles, than I had elsewhere observed. Its inhabitants do not merely present their visitor with the ordinary and cheaply-purchased necessaries of life, the productions of their immediate soil, but the ex-

pensive luxuries of distant countries are accumulated for his use, and lavished upon him in profusion.

After leaving Ekaterinburg, we proceeded to Bilinbaefskoi, where finding no viands prepared at the post-house, we were conducted to the habitation of a rich peasant, who immediately set before us an excellent dinner, comprising two kinds of soup, as well as both roasted mutton and beef. One of his daughters, a girl of eleven years of age, was present, and who we were told, as an extraordinary fact, could already read, and was learning to write. In the room where we dined, the skin of a wolf was hanging, which had been recently taken and well prepared. The peasant asked nine roubles, and had not our sledge been so heavily laden, and in a very crazy state, I should certainly have purchased it.

This small town is a place of much wealth, in consequence of its being the point from whence all the goods passing from Siberia to Europe, are embarked on the Tchesovie in large boats built expressly for that purpose.

The following is the mode in which the pro-

duce of the mines and manufactories of this neighbourhood are conveyed to the Tchesovie. The boats are built and loaded early in the spring, near the borders of rivulets, which generally become sufficiently enlarged by the melting of the snow, to carry them down to the larger streams; the waters collected in the dams that are constructed for the use of the manufactories, are let loose occasionally to enable them, on emergencies, to increase the stream or its impetus.

Tuesday, the 10th.—The weather was to-day cloudy but mild; and in the course of the forenoon we passed two rivers, that were running streams. These were strong symptoms of the breaking up of the winter, or of the difference of climate experienced on the European side of the Ural Mountains. One consequence was, that the roads were rendered very heavy, the surface of the snow being soft and porous.

Soon after noon one of our shafts broke, when we had to wait until our driver could procure an axe, with which he felled a small tree that served us as a temporary substitute.

We reached the town of Coungour, where they gave us for dinner, excellent sterlet soup and boiled sturgeon.

On the following day, in addition to a continuance of mild weather, we had much snow, which rendered travelling very heavy. We arrived at Perm early in the morning, but did not remain in it longer than was necessary to change horses, as our feld-jager proposed to hasten through, and prolong our stay at Cazan. This proposal was by no means disagreeable to me, as we had only been two days from Ekaterinburg, and I felt well enough, as I imagined, to reach Cazan without stopping.

After passing through Okhane and Dubitskoi we arrived, for breakfast, on the 12th at Oosy, the third station in the government of Viatka. Although I now met with good dinners on the road, yet the morning and evening repasts were most grateful to me—

"—— when the bubbling and loud-hissing urn
Throws up a steamy column, and the cups
That cheer, but not inebriate, wait on each."

It is true that, on these occasions, along with the steamy column of the poet's urn, I had the more offensive one that issued from the pipe of the feld-jager, who never failed to smoke while taking his breakfast and tea.

Early on the morning of the 13th, we entered the town of Malmyche, where I did not forget the complaisant expeditor, the first person who, since my blindness, ever took me for a spy. We arrived for dinner at a station forty-six miles from Cazan, where the feld-jager ordered the guard of the post to flog the postillion, but he begged to be excused, because it was his names-day. From hence, in consequence of a heavy wind and snow, that blew in our faces, we had a most unpleasant drive to Cazan, which place we reached at ten o'clock in the evening.

Although we fixed ourselves at an hotel, called the *Assemblè des Nobles*, we found no better accommodation for the repose of our wearied bodies, than what our own mattresses and fur clothing afforded; the only advantage our apartment possessed over the sledge was,

that in it we were sheltered from the weather, and comfortably warm. It is true that in the sledge I could seldom get any thing like a sound sleep, for although I occasionally fell off into a doze, the first trifling circumstance that occurred was sure to awake me, and I question whether this kind of broken rest was not more disagreeable than advantageous. Not so with my companion, for he appeared to sleep as well in the sledge, as in a regular bed.

In the morning the feld-jager requested me to accompany him to the governor, but as on my former visit, notwithstanding my letter of introduction, I did not find him over civil, I was not much disposed to pay him the compliment; but the feld-jager assuring me that it was an indispensable ceremonial previous to my being allowed to visit any person in the town, I consented, and was much gratified in finding him from home. Immediately after this formality was arranged, I proceeded to the house of my old friend, Mr. Fuchs, where we dined, and passed an agreeable afternoon,

the party consisting principally of University professors.

In the evening I made a visit to the master of the police, which, although partly official, proved a very agreeable one, as he was a gentlemanly, pleasant man, and his wife still more interesting, nay even fascinating. She was a well educated lady of Moscow, and when such an one is met with in the interior of such a country, her society is duly appreciated.

On Sunday, the 15th, both the feld-jager and myself were seriously unwell, in consequence of our stove having been improperly closed, so as to throw a quantity of carbonic acid gas into the room. I fortunately awoke in the middle of the night, found myself suffering from a dreadful head-ache, and with some difficulty succeeded in reaching and opening the door, otherwise it is probable that neither of us would have been alive in the morning. Many deaths occur in Russia from this cause, in consequence of the carelessness of servants, in shutting the stoves

before the wood is properly reduced to cinders.

My companion showed here a particular disinclination to walking out, and endeavoured all he could to keep me at home; this might partly be attributed to his not thinking exercise necessary to his health, and partly to his being unwilling to wear caloshes over his boots; he therefore provided a sub-officer of the police to accompany me in my excursions; I soon, however, walked him down, so that he would return contrary to my inclinations; but as I persisted in going farther, the feld-jager at last induced him to accompany me again. A friend this day called to introduce to me a countryman, who had arrived at Cazan under very peculiar circumstances.

This gentleman, Mr. L——, a lieutenant of our army, on half-pay, having relations at St. Petersburg, had visited that city in quest of employment, but meeting with disappointment, had been induced to engage with the Persian minister to accompany him to that country. He had been directed to proceed with a part of the mission who were to pass

down the Volga to Astracan, where they were to meet the minister, who was to undertake the journey to that point by land; from thence the whole were to enter Persia by the Caspian Sea. In pursuance of this plan he had advanced as far as Rabinsk, where, after taking refreshments, finding his companions not disposed to set off, he took a short walk, on his return from which he had the mortification to find himself left behind. Ignorant of the language, and with little resource in his pocket, his perplexity was extreme; he determined, however, to procure a boat and pursue the party. With this view he had proceeded as far as Cazan; but here, his means failing, he was unwillingly compelled to abandon his hopes of overtaking them. In this destitute state he was found wandering on the banks of the Volga by two of the professors of Cazan. His happiness may be imagined when he discovered that they could speak a language intelligible to him. They humanely assisted him in his distress, and eventually obtained him a situation as tutor in the family of a nobleman, which he still

retains. Thinking it, however, derogatory to the character of a British officer, he was by no means satisfied with his lot, and was anxious to return to St. Petersburg, but had not the means of defraying the expence of the journey. I expressed my regret that I was unable to offer him a place in my sledge as far as Moscow, and recommended him to reconcile himself to his present situation until he either received adequate remittances from his friends, or derived it from his present occupation; assuring him at the same time, that no honest employment was degrading to the character of a gentleman, when exposed to those unavoidable misfortunes which are so frequently the lot of humanity. He regretted much the disappointment of his Persian speculation, but, in my opinion, had much reason to congratulate himself thereupon, since he admits that a misunderstanding existed between himself and one of the secretaries, who probably intentionally took this method of getting rid of him, and might not have scrupled to have adopted some more effectual means, if it had failed.

We dined to-day at the *table d'hôte* of our inn, and spent the evening at home. It is considered a respectable house, deriving its title from the nobility's subscription-balls which are held here during the winter. The business is conducted upon the principle of an eating-house rather than of an hotel. We had a very fair dinner, with a great variety of wines, very good beer brewed at Cazan, and even English porter, at the rate of four roubles per bottle.

I found in Siberia, that although there were no regular inns, there were a variety of eating-houses, where the travelling merchants used to put up at, and where they never refused to take money, although at the post-houses, if you enquired what you had to pay, the reply was, "Nothing—oh, nothing!" if you then pushed the point farther, they would say, "Whatever you please to give." If, however, a man in their own station of life received refreshment from them, no consideration would induce them to accept of payment. It is true the necessaries of life cost them but little; for the rivers abound with fish, the

woods with game, and for their sheep-pastures they pay neither rent nor taxes. It is for luxuries alone that they require money, such as finer clothing, spirits, wines, tea, coffee, sugar, &c. Nothing can be more simple than the manner in which the ordinary peasant lives: in the morning he takes his soup or milk, with a large slice of bread; sour cabbage-soup, with meat in it, or fish-soup with bread, serves him for dinner; his supper is a repetition of the dinner; and thus he subsists for the day. The richer peasants, however, enjoy various luxuries, as tea, both in the morning and evening, and a piece of roast meat in addition to their soup at dinner. If a traveller can be content with such fare, he may make his way throughout Siberia, *formâ pauperis*, without money. Not that we are to suppose the peasants of this country insensible to the value of money; for as there is a brandy-shop in every village, to which they are fond of paying their devotions, and as the door of its *sanctum sanctorum* is only unlocked by money, they are quite alive to

the advantages of possessing this indispensable master-key.

Before leaving Cazan I made a few purchases from the Tartars; I found, however, that they trafficed like Jews, asking twice as much as they would take, and trying to cheat you in the article at the same time. I purchased, for instance, a few squares of what appeared finely-perfumed soap for which the place is famou , but found afterwards that it was ordinary, and the perfume only superficial. It is also celebrated for its manufactory of various articles in leather, beautifully worked, and richly embroidered with gold and silver, as boots, shoes, pillow-cases, &c.

My friends at Cazan, from whom I had received so much attention on my journey outward, appeared now shy of visiting me: such is the effect of being cast under the suspicious eye of an arbitrary government. I was not a little surprised to find them in expectation of my arrival, for they knew that the feld-jager had been dispatched for me, notwithstanding the governor-general of Si-

beria had assured me that none but ourselves were acquainted with the nature of his mission.

I also observed that the nearer we approached to Moscow, the more particular and vigilant did the feld-jager become. I believe he expected that accounts of our proceedings would be forwarded to the government from the different places we rested at. He now, too, began to show more decided marks of discontent at any delay in our journey, and used a variety of arguments to urge me forward. Amongst other points, he complained much of our tavern bill at Cazan, stating that, having a wife and family, he could not support the expence. I replied, that this expence was voluntary on his part; and, be it as it might, I thought his government would, or at least ought, to reimburse him; but that otherwise I had no objection to take them upon myself, sooner than allow his family to suffer: this, however, he would not accede to. In fine, I explicitly gave him to understand, that neither the convenience of himself nor his government, should induce me to injure my health by hastening forward at

a greater rate than I found convenient, unless indeed I was compelled to it.

On Monday, the 16th, after an early dinner, we left Cazan, and proceeded on our journey, partly along the surface of the Volga, and partly by land, for the river was not safe at all points. A few days only had elapsed since the ice had given way under the mail-sledge, and one of the horses was drowned, while the postillions and the bags were with difficulty saved.

On the following day we reached Vasali-Soursk for dinner. The house where we dined was provided with its billiard-table; but this is not surprising, when similar accommodations, piano-fortes, and other such articles of taste and luxury are met with even at Irkoutsk. One lady of my acquaintance had carried with her to the latter place, a favourite piano-forte from St. Petersburg at the bottom of her sledge, and this without inflicting the least injury upon it.

In the evening of this day I found myself seriously unwell; indeed I felt myself every day grow sensibly weaker. I was consequently

obliged to remain a few hours, at a post-station, to gain repose.

Soon after this, without being permitted to call at it, I repassed the delightful residence of the Prince of Georgia, where I had before spent many hours in that tranquillity in which the mind, after the agitation and confusion of a crowded city, delights to enjoy itself. Alas! I could now only think of the fair divinity of the place—the amiable princess—with a sigh, and unwillingly pass on!

"Oh, magic of love! unembellished by you
Has the garden a blush, or the herbage a hue?
Or blooms there a prospect, in nature or art,
Like the vista that shines through the eye to the heart?"

At eight o'clock in the morning of the 18th, we arrived at Nijni-Novogorod, where, after breakfast, we waited upon the governor. This gentleman and his lady were, however, both out of town, so that I was a second time disappointed in the pleasure of seeing them. I was more fortunate in finding Major G—— at home, who kindly invited me to meet a large party, which he was expecting to dinner; but

as I could not detach myself from the feld-jager, and was unwilling to intrude him upon my friend, I declined the invitation. Besides, my companion had previously engaged me to dine with the master of police, and who I found a very pleasant, gentlemanly person, and his lady apparently a genteel and accomplished woman. In the evening she did us the favour of entertaining us with music. The situation of this officer must be very lucrative, in consequence of the great influx of merchants at the time of the fair, from whom his perquisites are principally derived.

On the following morning we recommenced our journey, but at the first station were detained for a time by the repairs of our sledge, when finding dinner ready, we occupied ourselves in partaking of it. In the evening, I met with an instance of the little respect paid by the postmasters to private individuals. Two gentlemen, of apparent respectability, arrived at a station about the same time as ourselves; some time after, the feld-jager enquired whether they were gone forward. "Oh, no!" replied the postmaster,

"I have not thought of them, as you told me two officers were coming after you; they must wait until the latter have been served."

On the 26th we were detained for some time on the banks of the Oka, in consequence of an accumulation of water at the edge of the river, which obliged us to pass farther up its banks before we could cross over. This put the feld-jager into bad humour, which he expended, in both words and blows, upon the unfortunate driver; and when he had tired himself in this way, he obliged the Kalmuc servant to take away the poor fellow's cap, who was consequently compelled to proceed bare-headed. I could not avoid expressing some little irritation at this inhuman conduct, and he endeavoured to persuade me that there was no doing without it. I believe many of these drivers have so much care or feeling for their horses, that they often submit to be beaten, sooner than over-exert them.

The feld-jager had, however, strong reasons for his anxiety to get forward. In the first place, he was probably desirous to satisfy his superiors with his diligence and expedition; and

no doubt, at the same time, anxious to return to the bosom of his family, of whom he always spoke in terms of the greatest affection; but there was another and a more powerful motive, that, if he got back to St. Petersburg in time, he expected to be sent on a mission to Paris, and which would be far more lucrative to him than any journey within the empire. I, however, had none of these excitements to stimulate me to perseverance in a series of exertions, which, independent of their being constrained, I was sensible, were serving gradually to undermine my health.

At Murom, where we breakfasted, I had an opportunity of examining a live sterlet. It was a small one, about two feet in length, and six or eight inches in circumference at the largest part; it might weigh five or six pounds, and was valued at ten roubles. In shape it reminded me of the dog-fish, as its mouth was situated on the under side of the head, which terminated in a gristly point, about two inches in length, and not thicker than a goose-quill; the body beneath was flat; there were a number of thorny dorsal fins, and also one near the

gills on each side. This structure clearly indicates the favourite resort of the fish, namely, rivers with muddy bottoms. The surface is slimy when touched, and the flesh of a glutinous nature. Coxe informs us, that "the sterlet, or *acipenser ruthenus* of Linnæus, is a species of sturgeon, highly esteemed for the flavour and delicacy of its flesh, and for its roe, from which the finest caviare is made. It is distinguished from the other sturgeons by its inferior size, being seldom more than three feet in length."

We dined at the small town of Sudogda, about twenty-four miles from Vladimer, which city we passed through in the course of the evening; on the following morning, we breakfasted at a traiteur's, who paid four hundred roubles annually for his privilege to accommodate travellers at the post-house.

In the course of the day, we passed through the towns of Pokrof and Boghorodsk, the former at a distance of about sixty-six miles from Moscow. I remarked that, since we left Cazan, the masters of the post-stations did not pay the same respect to our feld-jager as on

the other side of that town; perhaps the situation is more lucrative, and consequently filled by people of higher rank. I recollect at one station, when a dispute took place with a postmaster, that the latter told my companion, that he was an officer himself, and held the rank of captain in the army.

We arrived for tea at the last station from Moscow, where we reposed ourselves until two o'clock in the morning, when we resumed our journey. As we approached the vicinity of the city our progress was much impeded by the number of peasants' sledges, which were conveying to the market, provisions for the approaching festival of the Butter Week.

On entering Moscow my feelings were highly elicited, and my mind alternately agitated by hope and fear;—I hoped to terminate that high state of suspense that had been hanging over me ever since the commands of the emperor were communicated to me at Irkoutsk, and which, such was my perturbed state of feeling, was alone sufficient to have affected my health, independent of the excessive exertions I had been made to undergo. I

promised myself, that I might be permitted to remain long enough in Moscow, to receive an answer to the letter I had addressed to his excellency Sir C. Bagot, and which I hoped would clear up the motives of the Russian government; I also flattered myself, that I should have found the opportunity of seeing the governor-general, Prince Galitzin, whose humanity, I knew, would grant me every indulgence that my situation required, and his duty would permit. In these expectations, however, I was doomed to disappointment, and I had also some reason to apprehend that my feld-jager would be impatient to hurry me away, as he had thrown out hints of his intention to proceed on the following day; but to these I had apparently turned a deaf ear.

CHAPTER IX.

Moscow—Messrs. Gillibrand and Holiday—Precaution of the feld-jager—The governor refuses to see the Author and limits his stay in Moscow—He is placed under restrictions—Visit from the master of police—A mysterious stranger introduced—The Author requires medical aid—Strict surveillance exercised over him—He is not permitted to converse in English—The Kalmuc servant loses his toe—The Author urged to quit Moscow—Peremptory determination of the governor—Remarks on the arbitrary conduct of the government—Feelings of the Author.

We entered Moscow at six in the morning, and drove to the hotel near my banker's, where I had formerly resided, but as we could not be received there, we proceeded to the Hotel de l'Europe, in the Twerskoi, from whence, after breakfast, the feld-jager accompanied me to Messrs. Gillibrand and Holidays. After some general conversation, the former of these gentlemen proposed to me to walk into

his counting-house, in order to make the necessary pecuniary arrangements with me; my companion, however, would not allow me to go alone, apparently suspicious that other communication might pass between us than what related to matters of business, and unwilling to sanction any unfavourable impression, I did not shew the least objection; although as he knew only sufficient English to give rise to misinterpretations, his presence was a bar to our unreserved conversation.

Mr. G. promised before long to call upon me at our hotel, and in the interim to communicate my arrival to some friends whom he expected to meet, and who, I had reason to flatter myself, would not be a little gratified to hear of my safety, for various reports had been circulated; one was, that I had passed privately through the city a prisoner in chains; and which was so far about to be confirmed, that I was doomed to find myself more a prisoner in Moscow, than in any other part of my journey.

After we returned from Mr. Gillibrand's, the feld-jager went to pay his respects to the governor and commandant, and as I had the

honour of being well acquainted with the latter gentleman, I was desirous to have accompanied him; this, however, he would not consent to, but promised to communicate my wishes to him, and let me know the result. On his return he informed me, that neither of these gentlemen desired to see me, but that the former had consented that I should remain two or three days in Moscow, which would be the extreme limit. The master of police, however, I was told would wait upon me to communicate the intelligence *in formâ*. He also announced to me, that I was not to call at the houses of any of my friends, not excepting my bankers; but, they were to be permitted to visit me at my hotel during three days of my stay at Moscow.

This being the case I determined to make the best of it, and therefore, in a jocular mood, drew up the following notice to apprize them of my situation.

"CIRCULAR.

"The prisoner Holman begs leave to acquaint his friends in Moscow, that he has

just arrived from Siberia, under charge of a feld-jager. As his keeper does not allow him to visit his friends, he begs to inform them that he may be seen at the Hotel de l'Europe, in the Twerskoi, for three days only. Should it be necessary for him to remain in Moscow any longer, no person will be allowed to visit him after that time, with the exception of his physician and banker.

"P. S. He has just learnt, that a tailor will be included in the exception, which precludes the risk of his being exposed on the frontiers *sans culotte.*"

As, however, I was interdicted from writing by my feld-jager, I was obliged to resort to a stratagem to draw up the above circular, or in other words, to use a nautical expression, *to get to windward* of his vigilance, for as soon as I heard him asleep at night, I crept out of bed, took my writing machine from my portmanteau, and committed to paper whatever I desired.

As the governor-general was at St. Petersburg, I was much disappointed that I could

not obtain an interview with the governor, and as there was no representative of our countrymen at this place, I was precluded, in consequence, from appealing to, or seeking redress from, any one. It would certainly be a great advantage to the English residents, if some part of the British mission were to reside in Moscow; or if one of the principal merchants received the appointment of consul.

About noon the above intelligence was officially confirmed by a smooth tongued master of police; one

> " —— whose visage, in the lazy mist
> That mantles every feature, hid a brood
> Of politic conceits."

This gentleman endeavoured to persuade me that two days would be amply sufficient for my continuance; to this suggestion, however, I made no reply.

Before dinner Mr. Gillibrand, and a number of my friends did me the honour to call upon me, after which I walked with the feld-jager in the gardens of the Kremlin.

In the evening I was much annoyed by a

mysterious visitor. He was dressed in black, and wore spectacles, and I could not but fancy his interior as dark as his exterior. I imagined that his object was to reconnoitre my baggage, and perhaps to inspect it, with a view of searching my papers; however I was perfectly at ease in this respect, as I had none belonging to me which I had any apprehension about. As this was the first night, for six months, that I had the opportunity of lying in a regular bed, with sheets, &c., it may be conceived that I was in so much luxury as scarcely to feel a wish to sleep.

On the following day I found myself so unwell, as to think it prudent to require the medical advice of my friend Dr. K——, who recommended me to remain perfectly quiet within doors, until I had recovered from the nervous state into which I had been thrown by excessive fatigue and anxiety.

I was highly gratified this morning by visits from a number of my former friends, including several ladies.

The feld-jager having engagements in the

city this morning, I had the honour of being placed during his absence in charge of the dark man, who much annoyed me by his strict surveillance. I took an opportunity of enquiring from the feld-jager who and what he was; and was told that he was a *gentleman* sent there by the master of the police. What a perversion, thought I, of the term gentleman! to me the situation of a hangman appeared more respectable; for he performs his duty openly, whereas it was this man's office to stab in the dark.

After the feld-jager was in bed and asleep, I took the opportunity this night of packing a small box, with a view of having it sent to England by way of St. Petersburg; but after a private conversation in the morning between the feld-jager and the dark man, I was informed that it could not be passed without an inspection of its contents. I therefore unpacked it, and having submitted the contents to examination, sent them loose in a bag to my bankers, requesting them to have them packed and forwarded according to my first intention.

On the following day (Feb. 24) I was again left in charge of the dark man, when an English gentleman called upon me, and commenced conversation in our native language; my mysterious keeper, however, interposed, saying, that he did not understand English; to this I replied, that I could not help it, as I had not had the honour of superintending his education; and then continued my conversation as before. He now repeated his remark, when I enquired whether his government meant to oblige me to speak a foreign language to my own countrymen; to which question he would give me no direct reply, but repeated his former words. My friend, however, requested me to continue our conversation in the French language only, as opposition might have the effect of excluding future visitors. This was not the only instance of their suspicion in preventing private communications with my friends; for they even took down the names of every one that visited me; and occasionally the master of police would have secret conferences with

the feld-jager in an adjoining room, and then retire without seeing me.

I was told by the feld-jager this morning that the poor Kalmuc, who had accompanied us from Siberia, had lost the larger part of the great toe of his right foot, in consequence of the intense cold experienced on his journey. He was himself unaware of this misfortune until he came to take off his boot, after our arrival at Moscow. I had observed him lame for two or three days previous to our arrival, when I took his arm to walk at the different stations while we changed horses. As he rode on the box, I wonder he was not frozen to death; for, although he had as much clothing on him as he could support, he was frequently so benumbed by cold as to fall from off the sledge into the road. When we arrived at a station, he would generally creep upon the top of the oven, and lie there until we were ready to start again.

This evening a lady and gentleman came to visit me, being the last I saw of my friends in Moscow, as the prohibitory law was acted upon on the following morning.

On the 25th I passed a gloomy day, in the alternate company of the feld-jager and the dark man, one of whom never quitted my apartment. My medical attendant and banker, however, were both permitted to see me, the latter to conclude our pecuniary arrangements. The feld-jager used every argument to induce me to say I would set off on the morrow. I replied, that it must depend entirely on the state of my health.

On the morning of the 26th I was told that I must prepare to commence my journey at eleven o'clock. I expressed myself, however, unable to comply with the order, as I had passed a sleepless night, felt exceedingly unwell, and moreover had taken medicine under the direction of my medical adviser; and I referred him to that gentleman, when he called upon me. Soon afterwards, the following farce was acted.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

MASTER OF POLICE—PRISONER—FELD-JAGER—POLICE SPY—DOCTOR.

Enter the various Characters.

M. of Police. (Addressing the Prisoner.) I am sent by the governor to say that you cannot remain in Moscow any longer.

Prisoner. I am too unwell to leave it; and, to confirm this, beg leave to refer you to the doctor.

M. of Police. (To the Doctor.) Is it not possible for this gentleman to proceed on his journey?

Doctor. It is possible, but I do not recommend it.

M. of Police. Why, surely, if he is well wrapped up, and carries medicine with him, he cannot suffer *much.*

Doctor. He is very feverish, and otherwise unwell, and therefore I cannot think it prudent for him to proceed in his present state.

Feld-jager. The weather is so fine that it is impossible it can hurt him.

Doctor. He is so much shaken by his late journey, that repose is necessary for him.

Feld-jager. He will not experience much fatigue in the sledge, and we can stop whenever he feels worse.

Prisoner. Yes, I can stop, if it happens to accord with your pleasure or convenience; but what comfort, what medical assistance, can I receive at the stations on the road?

Feld-jager. It is but three hundred and eighty versts to Smolensk, and we can rest there for a day or two.

Doctor. I recommend his remaining until to-morrow, at any rate, when I trust to find him better; and if so, I dare say Mr. Holman will have no objection to set off.

Prisoner. I cannot go to-day; but, if I feel better, will certainly leave to-morrow, as I can have no comfort in being detained a prisoner at Moscow.

M. of Police. (To the Prisoner.) I do not see what is to prevent your leaving to-day; for, if you are well clothed, and rub your hands and

face with spirits, there will be little fear of your taking cold.

Prisoner. You may prescribe, sir, what you please, but you will not induce me, voluntarily, to leave this hotel to-day, where I can have every comfort, to expose myself to the risk of being laid up at a miserable post-station on the road.

M. of Police. But the governor will not let you remain.

Prisoner. Then he must *compel* me to go.

M. of Police. (*To the Doctor.*) You say he can go.

Doctor. It is possible; but there is a risk, and I advise his remaining.

During this conversation the dark man maintained an inflexible silence, but no doubt was treasuring up every word that was uttered. The master of the police and the feld-jager now retired into a private room, when, after some conversation, the doctor and the spy were successively called to the council; soon after which

Re-enter Master of Police and Feld-jager.

Feld-jager. (To the Prisoner.) I am going to the governor with the master of the police, who will report what you say, as well as the doctor's opinion, and I shall return with the governor's determination.

Prisoner. Very well. You will of course find me where you leave me.

About an hour after, the feld-jager returned with the following humane communication from the governor: that I had permission to remain until the morrow, when I must leave the city, whatever might be the state of my health!!

How ridiculous it must appear, that the government of the mighty Russian empire should make the residence a day or two longer in its territories, of a single humble and afflicted individual like myself, an object of such immense importance, as to induce them to hurry him away at the risk of his life; an individual and subject of a friendly nation,

from which they had accepted, and are still accepting, all the rights of hospitality, against whom no offence, either political or moral, had been proved, or even so much as brought to the threshold of accusation, and whom they (hypocritically indeed) professed to consider not as a prisoner, but as a gentleman travelling for his own gratification; and yet were cruel enough to compel him, contrary to his inclinations, to an incessant journey of nearly five thousand miles, at this inclement season, through the wildest country in the world, extending over him the strictest and most jealous surveillance, and denying him the privilege of seeing a friend in private, or even of addressing a countryman in his native language! There must have been a *weakness* some where. At all events the transaction is most arbitrary, and constitutes an unjustifiable violation of the principles of hospitality and humane feeling.

The remainder of the day by no means passed agreeably, as the feld-jager was my sole companion, and not in the best of humours, for he was sensibly chagrined at the defeat of

himself and his coadjutors in their determination to get me away; besides, I felt my illness not a little aggravated by the anxiety of mind I had been experiencing, and the exertion which had necessarily been called forth. Although the fifth day since my arrival in Moscow, I had no intelligence from St. Petersburg, and consequently I gave up all hope of receiving the expected answer to my letter to Sir Charles Bagot.

The conviction, however, that I had nothing to look for from this quarter proved a considerable relief to my mind, for one source of suspence was removed; and such is my sanguine temperament, that any irritation of this nature renders me the most anxious of mortals; but let the excitement cease, no matter whether in an agreeable manner or the reverse, and my mind at once regains its tranquillity, so that I become comparatively comfortable. I then look back, and smile at the previous storm, and wonder that it has exerted so powerful an influence over me: for instance, with respect to the one great affliction it has been my fate to suffer—the loss of sight, my

mind was, during the period of suspence in which I was long detained as to the final result, in a state of excessive agitation and distress; but no sooner was it ascertained that the visual fire was quenched for ever, than it at once rose superior to misfortune, and began to seek for, and to find, occupation and consolation in a variety of pursuits, amongst which the love of travelling, as the reader will perceive, has not been the least prominent.

CHAPTER X.

Departure for Cracow—Smolensk—Singular recovery of a person who had been buried alive—White Russia—Horsha—Deficiency of snow, and sledge changed for a wheel carriage—Novotsiltsof—Brestletooski—Enter Poland—Distinction between the Russians and Poles—Lublin—Cross the Vistula—Separation from the feld-jager—Enter the republic of Cracow—The Author's feelings on his supposed restoration to liberty—Cracow—Visit to an English gentleman—Provoking detention in Cracow—Injurious reports—Hotels in Cracow—Fête of St. Joseph—Casimir—Podgorgza—Count Morski—The Author receives his passport, and prepares for his departure for Vienna—Money-changers.

After the storm of the preceding day, my mind had subsided into a comparative state of tranquillity, so that, on the morning of the 27th of February, having enjoyed a better night's rest than for some time previously, I awoke much refreshed, and the day being remarkably fine, prepared for my journey.

My bankers very obligingly waited upon me to offer their assistance, bringing with them a supply of fine tea, which they thought would be most acceptable during my journey. About half after nine I entered the kabitka, in company with the feld-jager, our poor Kalmuc servant being left behind at one of the hospitals, immediately after which we drove off, and took the road for Smolensk and Cracow.

I was obliged finally to leave Moscow without the satisfaction of seeing any of my Russian friends. All appeared afraid to visit me, although many kind messages were exchanged through the medium of my countrymen, whose independence and purity of intentions did not cause them to apprehend any ill consequences from keeping up a friendly intercourse with me. To the first station we paid double for our horses, a custom prevalent both here and at St. Petersburg, I believe as an additional remuneration to the drivers, who, notwithstanding the great extent of these cities, are obliged to take their passenger up, and put him down at his lodgings.

We arrived for tea, in the evening, at the

first station beyond Mojaisk, where we found a most superior and elegant post-house, comprising a regular traiteur, and every accommodation for the traveller, excepting beds. I believe the government have contemplated establishing houses of this description on all the principal roads. As we passed along today, we heard, in the different villages, "the loud laugh which bespoke the vacant mind," and which proceeded from the peasantry, who were now enjoying the festivities of the Butter Week.

After travelling the whole of the next day without any occurrence of interest, at five o'clock in the morning of the 29th, we passed through the venerable city of Smolensk, at which, under different circumstances, I should have certainly remained a day or two, in order to have visited its more interesting points, and in particular those connected with the events of the late war.

During my residence at St. Petersburg the following singular story was spoken of as having occurred at this place.

Two gentlemen had contracted a bitter and

irreconcileable enmity against each other. A servant of one happening to die, was buried within twenty-four hours, after the Russian custom, when the other determined to gratify his revenge upon his adversary, by accusing him of the murder of this man. To give a colour to this accusation, accompanied by some of his confidential servants, he proceeded privately to disinter the corpse, with a view of inflicting marks of violence upon it. The body was removed from the coffin and held erect, that it might undergo a severe flogging, when, to the astonishment and dismay of the party, after a few blows had been inflicted, animation returned, and the affrighted resurrection men ran off with the utmost precipitation. The corpse at length recovering its animation, was enabled to move off in its shroud and regain its master's habitation, which it entered, to the great terror of its respective inhabitants. At length, however, his reality becoming certain, they were re-assured, and the supposed ghost communicated all that he could remember of the state he had been in, which was, that his

senses had not left him, notwithstanding he had felt so cold and torpid as to be incapable of speech or motion, until the blows had restored him. This led to the detection of the diabolical plan against his master's life and character. The servants of the monster confessed their participation in the act, and he was consequently arraigned before the senate.

We soon afterwards entered what has been called White Russia, a term which Caramsin tells us John the Third, in enumerating his domains in the public documents, gave it, as signifying great, or ancient, according to the acceptation of the term in the oriental languages.

After entering White Russia we met with a great number of Jews, from whom the traveller may procure various luxuries, as well as the necessaries, of life in abundance.

We now passed through the small town of Horsha, where the two great roads from St. Petersburg and Moscow meet, and from which the road to Odessa also branches out. This place is chiefly inhabited by Jews.

March 1st.—The snow roads had now disappeared, so that we had a difficulty in getting our sledge to the next station. I was consequently obliged to dispose of it, and hire a crazy breechka to take us on to Cracow, and return with the feld-jager. For this accommodation we were to pay forty-five roubles, my sledge being estimated at fifteen roubles in part of payment. In the afternoon, we passed through Minsk, and took tea at the station beyond it, where we met the mail for St. Petersburg and Moscow.

On the 2d, one of our wheels got out of repair, and detained us for several hours in the middle of the night. This irritated my companion almost to madness, as he was impatient to get back to St. Petersburg. In the evening of this day we arrived at Novotsiltsof, where, being much fatigued, I reposed for the night.

Between seven and eight on the morning of the 3d, we pursued our journey, through a deep snow that had fallen during the night. In the middle of the following night, one of our fore-wheels and the axletree gave way and

detained us for more than three hours; we were, however, at length relieved by availing ourselves of the wheels and axletree of a returning post telega, and which carried us to the end of our journey.

At nine o'clock we reached the town of Brestletooski, near which the Russian dominions terminate, and those of Poland commence. We of course underwent the ceremony of passing the custom-houses of the two nations, the Polish being situated at about two versts from the town. At this place, where we dined, I was much annoyed by the officiousness of the Jews and beggars, with both of whom it abounds. My companion told me that our hostess, whose husband was a Jew, and whom I had found particularly loquacious, was very handsome, and wore a splendid head-dress, which he recommended me to examine; a suggestion which, after his description of its wearer, I had no objection to avail myself of. It was decorated with costly pearls and a variety of precious stones. These head-dresses are often handed down from one generation to another.

After entering Poland, we found the charge for posting much increased, it being now estimated according to the German rate, which is much higher than that of Russia. The postillions appeared to be a more respectable class of men, and were also distinguished by carrying a horn, the musical tones of which contributed not a little to enliven and cheer me up.

I observed a material distinction also in the manners, cleanliness, and regularity of the Poles, as compared with the Russians, as well as in the quality of their bread, and other articles of provision. The females at the various post-stations were by far more pleasing than those in the same situation in Russia; and I believe the same degree of superiority attaches itself to those of the higher classes. We also now passed from the old to the new style of calculating the year; so that in less than an hour I lost apparently twelve days of my existence.

The road was also materially improved, and we entered upon a delightful *chaussée*, that led all the way to Warsaw, a distance of

twenty-four German miles, or a hundred and sixty-eight Russian versts. After advancing, however, eight German miles from Brestlelooski, we quitted this road, and took one on the left to Cracow, which proved very indifferent.

March 5th.—We passed the town of Lublin early in the morning, and about noon crossed the Vistula, but not without some difficulty, in consequence of the immense masses of floating ice which were coming down from the higher parts of the river and its tributary streams, for the river itself had not been frozen at this point during any part of the preceding winter.

In the evening of this day my companion slightly chastised our postillion. I had observed, however, that since our entry into Poland, he had become sensibly milder in his conduct towards these people.

At seven in the morning of the 6th we arrived at the last post-station in the Polish dominions, where, after arranging my accounts with the feld-jager, I hired a breechka and a pair of horses to carry me out of the Russian frontier into the republic of Cracow.

This vehicle was made of basket-work, about the size and form of a cradle, and by no means of sufficient dimensions to contain two persons. We now proceeded in our respective equipages, for about a German mile, to the custom-house, where we were detained half an hour, while the feld-jager made the necessary arrangements for my passing the frontier. After this, accompanied by the custom-house officer, we proceeded half a German mile farther to the latter point, when the feld-jager delivering me my passport, and assuring me that it was correct, we parted, with mutual congratulations on our respective liberations. I immediately drove forward in the direction of Cracow, when I might well say that I had the world before me, and Providence for my guide, since my postillion and myself were quite incapable of exchanging a sentence with each other.

Although I had travelled with the feld-jager nearly five thousand miles, under the most disagreeable circumstances, and we had many skirmishes together, yet we never came to any thing like an open rupture; and I must

do him once more the justice to acknowledge, that to himself individually I feel indebted for much kind attention.

Being now, as I conceived, again at liberty to follow my own inclinations, so that I made no retrograde movement, it might be imagined that my happiness would feel unbounded; but, no,—and I scarcely know how to account for it,—my first feelings were those of indifference. Possibly it might result from the disappointment which my more darling project had experienced; or exhaustion arising from bodily and mental exertion, might have contributed to induce it. I at length, however, roused myself from the temporary apathy, and once more was alive to the passing incidents of my journey.

The first circumstance which attracted my attention was, that my postillion had halted under a covered way, with the object of refreshing his horses, and, most probably, himself, and where he detained me at least an hour. Previous to entering Cracow, my state of exhaustion threw me into a profound sleep, from which I was aroused by the postillion, at

the door of the hotel to which the feld-jager had directed him to drive me. This cannot be wondered at, as I had now been eight days and nights on the road from Moscow, with only a few hours' repose during that period. This exertion could not have been supported, except in the horizontal position, to admit of which the travelling equipages in Russia are generally constructed so as to allow a mattress to be extended in them. I think this the more probable, as I have always found that I could not support a continuance in an erect posture for more than two days without experiencing much inconvenience.

I waited a considerable time in my breechka, in hopes that some person would be found to whom I might explain myself, but was obliged at last to enter the house accompanied by my postillion, where the hostess fortunately was able to speak French. She showed me into a comfortless room, and assured me I should want for nothing, but at the same time cautioning me particularly against putting any linen on the funnel of the iron stove, as a gentleman suffering under the same affliction

with myself, (a Prussian musician,) had occupied the same apartment shortly before, and risked in this way burning down the house. I now collected and examined my luggage, discharged the postillion, and congratulated myself that I was once more at liberty in a respectable city, where I should be able to enjoy a few days of repose previous to again commencing my journey.

Hearing that an English gentleman was resident at the house of a Polish nobleman in this city, after dinner I took the liberty of introducing myself to him, and was most kindly received, when I passed a very agreeable evening, in hearing from him a detail of many interesting circumstances that had happened during the last twelve months in England; while he appeared to be not less interested with some of my late adventures. He introduced me to an intelligent Polish gentleman, who was well acquainted with our language. I had afterwards the pleasure of spending much of my time in Cracow with these gentlemen.

I engaged a *valet de place*, who was recom-

mended to me as speaking several languages, including the English; but this proved a jargon made up of a variety of tongues. This man, although born at Warsaw, was of German extraction; early in life he had entered the Prussian service; when taken by the French, he transferred himself into their army, and was captured by the English at Walcheren, and then received into our German Legion, in which he continued until the peace. He afterwards returned to Prussia, and from thence to Poland; he expressed himself, however, by no means satisfied with his present lot, and as anxious to return into the English service.

On the following morning I accompanied my new acquaintances in a walk through the town, when they did me the honour of introducing me to several of the professors of the university, and also to the secretary of the Russian consul, who I believe had received intelligence respecting me from the governor of Moscow. On the following day he communicated to me that the consul desired to see me I consequently waited upon him, but

he had nothing but ordinary compliments to offer. The secretary afterwards invited my friends and myself to spend the evening, when we were entertained with tea, cards, and smoking.

I was too unwell, during the few first days of my residence in this town, to use much exertion, although the weather was very fine; but on Saturday, the 13th, finding myself much recruited, I began to contemplate proceeding to Vienna, and therefore waited upon the Austrian consul, to procure his signature to my passport, when, to my surprise, he started an objection, saying, that as I had come from Russia, I ought to have had the signature of the Austrian minister at St. Petersburg. I of course urged in reply, that, under my circumstances, it was impossible for me to procure that signature, and was forced to accept of such passport as the governor of Moscow thought right to give me; and that on receiving it I had been assured I should meet with no obstruction on my road to Vienna. He replied, that he would consult the president of the republic and the

Russian consul, and acquaint me with the result.

I then waited on the secretary of the Russian consul, who made light of the objection. I must admit, however, that some doubts had, all along, existed in my own mind upon the subject, and which I had expressed to the feld-jager, and afterwards to this gentleman. I was assured, however, that the Russian passport would be all-sufficient.

In the evening the secretary of the Austrian consul called upon me, to state that my passport could not be signed until the consul had communicated with his government at Vienna; and, what was ridiculous enough, enquired why I had not applied to the Prussian consul for his signature; and which might have been self-evident, as my object was not to enter into the Prussian but the Austrian states.

In the morning I again waited on the Russian consul, to endeavour to induce him to intercede in my behalf, as my dilemma was the result of an act of his government, which I had myself no power to guard against. He expressed his concern, and promised to use

his influence, but it all proved ineffectual, and I was doomed to be detained for some time longer in Cracow.

I thought it prudent to address a letter to Sir Henry Wellesley, our minister at Vienna, to acquaint him with my situation, and to request him to make an application to the Austrian government in my behalf, or to enable him to answer any enquiries that might be made respecting me; and in order to ensure my letter getting immediately to hand, I paid a small sum of money to the post-office; after which they gave me a receipt, acknowledging their charge of it at the time, and also, on the return of the post, a second receipt from the person to whom it was delivered. Surely this is an admirable method to adopt in any country with letters of importance.

I now began to hear reports injurious to my character, and was informed that several of the most respectable families in Cracow were desirous of showing me attention, but that they were afraid of being marked for holding communications with a suspected person. It

was even circulated that I had been banished to Siberia for some great crime, but that the emperor, in consideration of my affliction, had been pleased to recall me, and have me conveyed to the frontier!

The weather, on my arrival in this city, had been fine and warm; it now, however, became cold, wet, and variable, so that I confined myself a good deal to my hotel, taking exercise occasionally in a gallery that extended from the door of my room for a distance of ninety paces, through the internal circumference of the hotel. The inhabitants of Cracow, however, enjoy the convenience of hackney-coaches, a mode of conveyance more siuitable to a cold and changeable climate than the Russian droshka.

The King of Hungary is regarded as the largest and best hotel in Cracow; the next in size and reputation, was the one in which I was residing, named the Hotel de Providence; after it ranks the Dresden Hotel; but there are many eating-houses equally respectable. The price of apartments is fixed by the government, to prevent imposition;

the innkeepers, however, contrive to evade this restriction, by charging separately, and extravagantly, for beds and firing.

On entering the republic of Cracow, I found the Russian, and also Polish, method of heating the apartments* with wood, exchanged for coal, which is abundant in this neighbourhood, although that of the best quality is brought from Silesia. At the hotel they charge separately for each time of lighting the fire, so that in cold weather, they contrive to make the expence much greater than in England.

Friday, the 19th, was the fête of St. Joseph, who is here a great favourite with the fair sex, as he is particularly indulgent to their favourite propensities—marrying and dancing. Notwithstanding this holiday always takes place in Lent, these indulgences are permitted, although strictly interdicted on every other day. At Warsaw a public ball is held on the occasion.

On the 23d I passed through the Jewish town of Casimir, crossed the bridge of the

* The brick oven is also exchanged for iron stoves.

Vistula, and entered the Austrian territory and town of Podgorgza, to enquire after the diligence from Lemburg to Vienna, in which I proposed to take my place to the latter city. I found that I could secure no place, but should have my chance for one as far as Brunn, from whence I could proceed by a second coach to Vienna.

Notwithstanding the unpleasant reports that were circulating with respect to me, I had, on the 25th, the gratification of receiving an invitation from the venerable Count Morski, the last ambassador that Poland had sent to England as an independent state, and which I was happy to accept. This nobleman and his amiable countess, who is the sister of the husband of Madame Catalani, received me in the kindest manner, and did me the honour of fixing the following day for my dining with them, when I had the pleasure of meeting a small agreeable party, among whom was a very learned professor, (a German,) of the oriental languages in this university, and who was also well versed in English literature. We had much interesting conversation.

On the 26th I dined at the *table d'hote* of the Dresden Hotel, where, for the first time in my life, I partook of beer-soup, the additional ingredients of which were bread, sugar, and eggs.

On Sunday, the 28th, a post from Vienna arrived, when I waited on the Austrian consul, to ascertain whether he had received any communication respecting me; and had the gratification of learning that he had been authorized to grant me a passport, and that it had already been sent to my hotel. I immediately returned, and forwarded it to the police for the proper signatures; and having made every necessary preparation, walked over to Podgorgza, to endeavour to get a promise of the first vacant place in the Lemburg diligence of the following day. I felt not a little elevated in my spirits at the assurance that I had now entirely got rid of the most disagreeable circumstances that had so long enveloped me, amongst which those of the last three weeks had by no means annoyed me a little, suspected as I had been on all sides, with little money and no credit to support me; and, in

fact, without knowing an individual upon whom I had any claim for protection.

Several of the Jews of this city, finding out my intention to set off for Vienna, on the day before my departure unexpectedly intruded themselves into my apartment, and, in the German language, which I did not understand, offered, as it was explained to me by my servant, to exchange any foreign moneys I might have for that of Austria. I had, however, taken care to provide myself with Dutch ducats, which are negotiable in all parts of the world. The traveller, however, must take care that they are neither light or perforated, since they will find every advantage taken of such deficiencies; I experienced myself many deductions on this account.

CHAPTER XI.

The republic of Cracow—The city—Its university—Romantic neighbourhood — Monument of Kosciusko — Tumuli of Cracus and Varida—Lobzow—Salt-mines of Wieliczka.

CRACOW, formerly the capital of Poland, has lately been separated from that kingdom, and is degenerated into the head of a small and insignificant republic, under the protection of its three powerful neighbours, Austria, Russia, and Prussia, to whose jealousy of each other, its existence may possibly be attributed. It now forms a small neutral state, intermediate to these great kingdoms, and which, as it could not be made to administer to their ambition, serves as a convenient neutral territory.

This republic occupies about twenty square miles, which comprise a population of nearly a hundred thousand souls.

The city itself is built in the form of an

eagle with expanded wings. It was formerly strongly fortified, but its ramparts are now overthrown, and converted into public promenades. It contains, at the present time, about twenty thousand inhabitants, and exhibits but the shadow of its former grandeur; the chief interest it possesses arising from its containing the monuments of most of the heroes of the unfortunate kingdom of Poland; the Piasts, the Jagellons, and the Sobieskis, whose remains repose silently in its venerable cathedral, amidst the ruins of their country.

The city is laid out with considerable regularity; from the grand square, eleven principal streets conduct to the suburbs, and which are intersected at right angles by ten smaller ones. Many of the churches and houses are handsome structures, but too plainly participate in the general decay of their country, and evince the woful ravages of time, and the varying politics of this world. Ten suburbs of different denominations surround the proper city; one of them, named Casimir, originally built by the monarch of that name, is exclusively inhabited by Jews.

Cracow has an university, founded by Casi-

mir the Great, and which is even now in considerable repute. It is supported, at a great expence, by the senate, and was, until very lately, much resorted to by numbers of students from Russia and Poland; an imperial edict, however, has lately forbidden their future residence in this city, dictated, no doubt, by the apprehension of their imbibing too deep a love of liberty, a goddess whom it is almost treason to name before this arbitrary government. It was lately reported at Cracow, that a great part of the students at Wilna, in consequence of some indication of a taste for liberty, had been carried off, and compelled to military service.

The situation of Cracow is most romantic, being in the neighbourhood of the Carpathian Mountains, and on the right bank of the Vistula, which river flows majestically amidst its smiling and fertile valleys. It is overlooked by beautifully-wooded hills, surmounted by ruined castles, or the solitary monastery; while villages peep out from behind their brown crags, and agreeably diversify the scene. There is some elevated

ground near the city, the Bronistawa, which excites a peculiar interest, from its being the spot selected for the monument of the virtuous patriot, Kosciusko, and which consists of an immense barrow, commenced in the year 1820, and completed in 1823. It is a hundred and twenty feet in height, and the circumference of the base seven hundred and thirty-eight feet. This tumulus was raised bythe voluntary contributions of all classes of the Polish nation, at the expence of a hundred and twenty thousand florins.

There are two other barrows in the vicinity of the city, so ancient, that tradition and credulity have assigned to them the most improbable histories. One is reported to be the grave of Cracus, the reputed founder of the city; and the other that of his daughter, Varida, whose legend is romantic enough for a modern novel or melodrama.

In the neighbourhood of the city are the remains of the palace of Lobzow, formerly the residence of the Polish kings, and which are held in high veneration by all ranks of the Polish people.

A short distance from Cracow are the celebrated Salt-Mines of Wieliczka, which have now been worked for nearly six centuries. These mines, for depth, extent, and internal beauty of arrangement, are unequalled by any others in the known world. There are two ways for entering them; one by a spiral staircase, with a landing or resting-place at every ten steps; the other by means of a rope and windlass, worked by horses; the latter is generally preferred, as being less fatiguing. Several persons may attach themselves to the hanging seats of the cable, and which being arranged, the descent commences. In about two minutes you arrive at the first story of the mine, when its various parts are exhibited, and the stranger must here be particularly careful not to separate himself from his company, as he may get lost within the numerous corridors, which form a complete labyrinth. Here you witness the cutting-out the masses of salt in large blocks, by means of levers, wedges, and other instruments, and sometimes it is blasted off with gunpowder,

the report of the explosion of which, as re-echoed through the numerous and immense caverns, resembles the firing of cannon. Upwards of a thousand miners are employed in the various departments of the mine, who work eight hours every day, by the light of lamps.

On the first floor the stranger should notice the Chapel of St. Anthony, where the pillars, pulpit, altar, and statues of saints, are cut of solid salt. There is also a statue of Augustus the Second, formed of one piece of crystal salt, which is well deserving of inspection.

The waters of the mine are conducted by canals to a spacious cavern, where they accumulate into a considerable and deep lake, over which the stranger is ferried in a flat-bottomed boat. This water is fully saturated with salt, and might, if necessary, be rendered very productive, by exposing it to evaporation. The excess of water is drawn out by hydraulic machinery, which is kept in action both day and night.

Under the first story are two others, the whole extending to the depth of a thousand feet, and forming one of the most stupendous works of art ever witnessed, and comprising numerous galleries, corridors, and immense apartments, supported by massy columns of salt-rock.

CHAPTER XII.

Departure from Cracow—Meeting with Dr. ———Difficulties in our progress—Belitz—Amatorial disputes—Teschin—Olmutz—Battle of Austerlitz—Love-adventures continued—Brunn—Diligence regulations—Enter Austria—Arrival at Vienna.

On the 29th of March I prepared to leave Cracow, for which purpose I proceeded with my luggage to the office of the Lemburg diligence, at Podgorgza. The time of the arrival of this vehicle is always uncertain; and the postmaster assuring me that it would not be in before three in the afternoon, and promising to secure me the first vacant place, I returned to Cracow to dinner. I was back again, however, before the coach arrived, and had the unexpected gratification to meet a medical gentleman, Dr. ——, whom I had known at Irkoutsk, and of whom I have

before spoken, as having made a tour of the world. He was also, like myself, on his way to Vienna. This was a very pleasing, as well as an advantageous rencontre, as he could speak the German, French, and English languages. This gentleman had been several days at Cracow, and did not appear to be more gratified with his residence in it than myself; as, notwithstanding he had various letters of introduction, very few attentions had been paid him by the inhabitants of the place. One gentleman, indeed, had taken much pains to exhibit all the *lions* of the place, for which purpose he made the appointments at his own house; but when my friend arrived, met him at the door, and, without inviting him to enter, immediately conducted him away in a hackney-coach, which he insisted upon paying for, as well as for every other expence incurred on the occasion. This conduct was certainly unusual; but the gentleman, who was beyond the middle age, had lately married a handsome young wife, and possibly thought it prudent to keep her out of the risk of temptation; for it will appear

in the sequel, that my friend was not without the power of captivation.

There was another gentleman, a native of France, also waiting for the diligence; so that I had more prospect of social intercourse than my warmest hopes could have anticipated; and, fortunately, when the coach arrived, about six o'clock, there were vacant places for the whole of us, the doctor and myself being accommodated in the body of the coach, and the Frenchman in the cabriolet. The fare to Brunn was eleven and a half silver florins, equal to about twenty-four shillings sterling; each silver florin being equal to two and a half paper.

Our companions, within the coach, were the widow of an Austrian officer and her daughter. It was my fortune to be placed *vis-a-vis* to the latter, while my friend sat opposite to mamma, an arrangement which I found was by no means satisfactory to him, as, previous to setting off, he had already come to so excellent an understanding with the young lady, that they were desirous to sit as near together as possible. These sudden friendships will ap-

pear inexplicable to those who have not visited the continent. Unaware of the bias of his feelings, I now jocosely began to rally him on my comparative good fortune; for although verbal, or visual, communication be both denied, it must not be supposed that I take no interest in a happy degree of contiguity with an agreeable young female, particularly as increased, and enhanced, by the occasional concussion produced by the asperities of the road, or of a friendly rut.

Our journey certainly did not begin well, for the quantity of snow that had lately fallen made the roads very heavy; besides the night proved dark, and although this did not affect myself, was rendered truly disagreeable by a cold, bleak, northerly wind, as well as the tedious tardiness of our vehicle, which certainly did not move at the rate of three English miles in the hour, although we were travelling with regular post-horses.

Our first disaster was being brought to a stand when midway up a steep hill, and we were all compelled to turn out of our snug places, with a view of enabling the horses to make progress. I shall never forget the im-

pious language our guard made use of on this occasion to the poor jaded animals; had they understood him it could scarcely have failed to have made their very hair stand on end. Be this as it may, it proved quite ineffectual, and therefore might have been spared; our conductor was obliged to send for additional horses before we could surmount the difficulty.

On resuming our seats, the elder lady comforted herself with a little cordial, which she had been provident enough to have with her, and was sufficiently liberal to invite us to participate; however as I was deriving the advantage of some of my Siberian clothing, it was by no means necessary to myself, nor could I conscientiously deprive a fellow-traveller of those provisions which she might deem necessary to her comfort on so unpleasant a journey.

At six in the morning, we had only reached the second station from Cracow, a distance of four German miles. While we refreshed ourselves at this place, the doctor took off his boots to dry, when the over anxiety of our host having placed them too near the fire, on attempting to put them on again, he had the

gratification of finding his foot make its way through the scorched leather; this catastrophe was not a little heightened by his being unable to get at, or purchase others, his whole stock being too effectually locked up in his baggage.

As the day advanced the weather improved, so that by evening we had proceeded, with comparative comfort, as far as Belitz, twelve German miles from Cracow, and the ancient frontier town of Poland. The inn at this place appeared very decent, although they seemed to know little of tea-making, as they boiled it with the water and sent it up in large tumblers, with such a quantity of tea-leaf floating in it that we were obliged to pass it through a strainer before drinking it.

About this time strong manifestations of the partiality, which had mutually taken place between the doctor and my fair companion, began to develope themselves. The former having left the coach, the young lady soon after made an excuse for doing the same, when not returning in what mamma considered a reasonable time, the latter determined to go in quest of her, and unfortunately found her *tête a tête*

with my friend. This detection gave rise to a series of altercations which continued throughout the remainder of our journey. The expression of maternal solicitude was, however, not confined to words; for the offended matron taking a shoe from off her foot, commenced with it a personal castigation of her too susceptible daughter; the gallant doctor, however, bravely interposed, and received a considerable portion of the blows intended for his *chere amie;* a devotion on his part which evidently made a deeper impression on her mind, than the mother's discipline upon his own body.

On the 31st we made considerable progress in our journey; the harmony of the party, however, was entirely sacrificed to the amatorial disputes that had broken out amongst us. In the course of the night I was myself not a little surprised by some one feeling about my knees, and which proved to be the hand of the suspicious mother, groping in the dark to ascertain whether there was any loving communication going forward between the doctor and her daughter. I was assured,

however, that no suspicion attached to myself, and indeed there was no room for it, for the feelings of the young lady were evidently too much absorbed in favour of my friend, to allow her to have two strings to her bow.

We breakfasted at Teschin, where it was noticed that the rate of charge for dinner, wine, and other accommodations, was, by direction of the magistrates, posted up in the public room. At eleven in the forenoon we arrived at Fridek, from which place, while our guard was changing horses, I walked forward for two or three miles with the French gentleman, who, notwithstanding that he was entitled to take an inside place occasionally, had continued in the cabriolet. I had lent him my large fur coat, and he preferred amusing himself with the jocularity of the guard, to being annoyed with the squabble of our inside party, and which, at the distance he preserved, contributed rather to amuse than disturb him. We terminated our walk by entering a quiet public-house, where the landlord and his family were assembling at dinner over a large pan of farinaceous food,

and when I was much pleased by the devotion with which the children repeated some prayers, before commencing their meal.

After re-entering the coach, we did not rest for dinner until five o'clock, when we fared very indifferently. This confirmed my former experience, that when travelling in Germany, it is best to dine as soon after noon as convenient, when there is generally ample provision made.

At seven in the morning of the 1st of April we entered the strongly-fortified town of Olmutz, thirty German miles from Cracow, and where we were detained by the business of the guard for more than two hours, during which time we amused ourselves with walking about the town. This fortress sustained a vigorous siege by the Prussians, under Frederick, in the summer of 1758, but before it could be brought to surrender, the arrival of the Austrian army compelled that indefatigable monarch to raise the siege and evacuate Moravia, with immense loss.

At the station before arriving at Brunn, Porsorsitz, I visited the room where Buona-

parte had reposed on the night previous to the battle of Austerlitz. The Emperor Alexander also had slept two nights here on his journey to and from the congress.

We were now in the immediate vicinity of the scene of the ever-memorable battle of Austerlitz; and whether it was in emulation of that eventful day or not I shall not pretend to determine, but on this spot the contest between my travelling companions began to rage with aggravated fury. The violence of the mother was so excited, that the doctor was fain to interpose again, and secure her hands; a measure which produced the most ungovernable expressions from the former, who, amidst the chokings of passion, demanded how he could dare to offer violence to a dame of quality. The young lady sustained the blows and abuse of her mother with more forbearance than might have been expected. At length, however, after a few sententious remarks, and an abundance of tears, she brought the affair to something like a climax, by exclaiming, "He is my brother!" and throwing herself into the doctor's arms. The

unhappy mother now appealed to the guard, and demanded his protection, asserting that her daughter intended to run off with her lover, and declaring that, as soon as they arrived at Brunn, she would place her in the charge of the police. The man recommended her to let her take her own course.

Although every allowance must be made for the feelings of a mother, anxious to keep her daughter in the path of virtue, I cannot but think her own intemperate conduct chiefly contributed to produce, or aggravate, the present painful circumstance. She was, besides, devoid of all delicacy of feeling, and her manners gross and vulgar in the extreme. Her husband had originally been a common soldier, and married her while in that situation. She made no scruple of confessing her earnings at the wash-tub, or her love of brandy. Her daughter had evidently received a more refined education, and probably was not a little urged on in her imprudent conduct by the disgust, she could not fail to entertain, for her parent's vulgarity and indecency. This increased sensibility is one of the ill conse-

quences of educating children in a manner superior to what their parents have enjoyed; for they are too apt to become conscious of their superiority, and to evince it by contempt and disrespect; besides, it often leads them to aspire beyond their destinations in life, to heights either unattainable, or incompatible with their happiness. I am afraid our fair companion's education had been more superficial than solid, and that her imagination had been inflamed, and rendered romantic, by the pernicious system of novel-reading, which pervades this part of the continent.

At eleven in the evening we arrived at Brunn, the capital of Moravia. At the hotel of the Three Kings we were treated with so much neglect and indifference, that our French companion secured beds for himself and me at another house. The doctor, however, chose to take his apartment in the same house with the ladies.

In the morning the doctor and myself took our places in a newly-established post-coach to Vienna, the fare in which, for a distance of eighteen German miles, was equal to about

fourteen shillings sterling, with an allowance of fifty pounds weight of luggage, thirty of which, however, must be forwarded by another vehicle, that is dispatched expressly for this purpose. Being ignorant of the permission to take a part with me, I was prevented from availing myself of it, the whole of my baggage being forwarded by the guard of our late diligence.

The following copy of the regulations for conducting this coach may not be entirely uninteresting, as it contains a few points that may be deemed peculiar.

1. The fare to be paid on taking the place, the money for which is never returned.

2. Each traveller is allowed fifty pounds weight of luggage.

3. The trunks and baggage must be delivered at the coach-office before half-after six on the preceding evening, and the passenger must be ready at six in the morning.

4. Each trunk, bag, or parcel, must be directed.

5. No drink-money is to be given to the postillions.

6. Large dogs are not allowed in the coach.

7. The journey is to be performed in sixteen hours, and the guard to stop no where but to change horses, with the exception, however, of one hour for dinner.

8. It is not permitted to smoke in the coach, if any of the passengers object to it.

9. The passengers, if desired, are occasionally to change places with each other.

10. A reciprocity of civility is to be observed between the guard and the passengers.

11. On arriving at Vienna, the passengers can have a custom-house porter to fetch or take their luggage; but in this case the time and direction must be specified.

Our former party was now separated, for the two ladies and the Frenchman had made their arrangements to go with the baggage vehicle, that I have before alluded to. The lovers, however, did not part without an understanding with each other, and an assignation to meet at the Cathedral in Vienna. The doctor had watched the mother into the coach-office, and immediately flown to the hotel, where he

found the young lady alone in her apartment, when he availed himself of the opportunity of making the above arrangement.

Our new carriage was peculiar in its make, being of an oval form, with a seat all round, sufficiently large to contain eight passengers, so that our feet inclined toward the centre. Its rate of travel was greater than that of any other German diligence I ever met with, for we proceeded full seven English miles in the hour, and the utmost expedition was used in changing the horses. The party consisted chiefly of respectable plodding merchants, who I really thought would have smoke-dried me; they paid me the compliment, however, of asking my permission, in consequence of the prohibitory regulation; but I can never feel justified in depriving others of their greatest comforts to gratify my own feelings.

About noon we left Moravia, and entered the hereditary states of Austria, after passing a previous hilly country, but which now changed into a more level one. During the whole of the present journey I remarked a particular flavour in the bread, as if it were

mixed with aniseed; there was, however, a finer bread, in the form of cakes and rolls, which ate very short and pleasant, as if it had milk and butter in its composition, and which was always served up with the coffee in the morning.

On entering Vienna we passed over two wooden bridges, a larger one extending across the Danube, and a smaller one over one of its branches. On arriving at the diligence-office the only concern was to walk off the moment we left the carriage, for as we had neither luggage to take charge of, nor account to settle, even with the driver, there was no cause for a moment's detention. All we had to do was to engage an old woman, who was standing in the street, to conduct us to the King of Hungary hotel, near the cathedral, where the doctor and myself had arranged to take up our quarters.

CHAPTER XIII.

Vienna—Strictness of police with strangers—Dilemma of the Author—Visit to the opera—Audience with the British ambassador—Monument by Canova—The steam-boat-office—The bootmaker—Belvidere palace—The Reverend Mr. Bradford—Barons Arnstein and Eskeles—Theatre in the Leopoldstadt—Baroness Pereira—Warm baths—Visit to Presburg—Passion week—Easter Monday—The hospital—Description of Vienna—Manners of its inhabitants—Its environs—Illiberality towards Beethoven—Public redoubte rooms—Censorship over the press—The Italian opera—The theatres—Excursion to Baden—Marquis de Beaumanoir—The Belvidere museum.

On the morning after our arrival at Vienna, while at breakfast, we were presented with the bills of the opera and three different theatres, for the performances of that evening. We were also informed, that it was indispensable to make our appearance at the police-office within twenty-four hours from the

time of entering the city, or we should otherwise be ordered away. I consequently lost no time in presenting myself at the office, where after answering a variety of questions, many of which would have been deemed exceedingly impertinent in England, as they related to my pecuniary circumstances, I received a billet for three days, at the expiration of which I was to appear again, either accompanied by a respectable inhabitant, or with a certificate from some one of my possessing the necessary means of support during my residence in this city. This placed me in an unpleasant predicament, for the only person to whom I had brought a letter of introduction had died the day before my arrival, while the letter of credit that I expected to meet me, and which ought to have been at the post-office long before, had not arrived.

In this dilemma I determined to lose no time in waiting upon our ambassador, Sir Henry Wellesley, to whose kind offices I attributed my early liberation from Cracow. He was, however, from home, and I was in-

formed by Lord Lascelles, that I could not see him before noon on the following day.

I was now left to my own reflections, and as I despaired of receiving my letter of credit, had to calculate how far my present stock of money would be adequate to carry me. However I never allow myself to despond, and therefore returned to my hotel, from whence in the evening I accompanied the doctor to the representation of the celebrated opera of Gabriella de Vergi, with the music of which I was greatly delighted.

On the following day, being Sunday, I attended divine service at the chapel of the embassy, after which I had the honour of some conversation with his excellency Sir H. Wellesley, relative to the treatment I had experienced in Russia and Poland.

The next two days produced no occurrences of interest.

On Wednesday, the 7th, I accompanied the doctor to the church of St. Augustine, where is to be seen the beautiful monument, by Canova, erected to the memory of the Archduchess

Christine of Austria, by her husband, Albert, Duke of Saxe-Teschin. It is esteemed one of the finest sculptures of modern times, and is scarcely surpassed by any of antiquity.

I was anxious, before leaving Vienna, to make a short excursion into Hungary, and as I was informed of a steam-boat from hence to Presburg, I this day went to the office to make the necessary enquiries concerning it. The office was not open, but as the secretary resided under the same roof we ventured to call at his apartment. He would not, however, condescend to give us the desired information; but laconically referred us to the proper office hours.

We had, about the same time, a specimen of the conceit of a bootmaker of this city. My friend the doctor, having occasion to replace the boots that had been burnt on his way from Cracow, wished one of these sons of Crispin to make him a pair similar to some he had brought with him from St. Petersburg. The honest burgher indignantly replied, that he should not stoop to copy from a Russian, or indeed any bootmaker in the world.

On the 9th I visited the Belvidere Palace, built by Prince Eugene, on the spot where the Turks were encamped at the memorable siege of this city, and which has been purchased by the emperor and appropriated for a gallery of paintings.

I received on this day my long expected letter of credit, which besides placing my mind at ease with regard to pecuniary arrangements, opened to me a new circle of friends; in particular it contained an introduction to a countryman, who proved a most agreeable and useful acquaintance.

In the evening I had the pleasure of accompanying the Rev. Mr. Bradford, the chaplain to our embassy, and who, although a stranger, had most kindly called upon me, a few days previously, on learning the peculiar circumstances under which I was situated, to a private concert of amateurs, who meet once in the week during the winter. The treat was very great, and afforded an interesting specimen of the musical taste of this city.

On the following morning I presented my letter of credit to the Barons Arnstein and

Eskeles, who received me most politely; and I afterwards had the honour of an invitation from the former to dine with him on the following day. In the evening I accompanied the doctor to the small theatre in the Leopoldstadt, where low comedies, farces, and pantomimes are performed. Most of the performers were exceedingly happy in their representations of the manners of the middle and lower classes of their countrymen. The language was chiefly a *patois*, or provincial dialect of Austria, and the pieces abounded with witticisms, puns, and localisms, so that the house was kept almost in a continued roar of laughter.

On Sunday, the 11th, after divine service at the ambassador's, I accompanied my new friend and countryman, Mr. B——, to the splendid promenade in the Leopoldstadt, named the Prater. I dined this day with Baron Arnstein, whose daughter, the Baroness Pereira, I found to be an accomplished woman, and well acquainted with the English language and literature. One of her sons did me the favour of conducting me to the Baron Eskeles,

where some of the cabinet ministers, as well as several distinguished foreigners, were assembled. The baron favoured me with an invitation to dine on the following day, which I had great pleasure in accepting of.

On the 13th I visited the warm-baths in the Leopoldstadt, and which may be had at various prices: the principal ones, particularly the Diana bath, are very elegantly fitted up. I had this day occasion to change some ducats, for each of which I received about nine shillings and seven-pence sterling.

On the following day I dined with the Baroness Pereira, and was much annoyed by a deaf old gentleman, who kept constantly roaring into my ear, as if my affliction was congenial with his own, the praises of an American quack-doctor, who had discovered a specific for the cure of every species of blindness, of the efficacy of which he appeared to have the fullest persuasion.

On Thursday, the 15th, I had the pleasure, in company with Mr. B——, of putting into execution my plan for visiting Hungary; to effect which, although a constituent part of

the empire, we were obliged to undergo the same forms as if we were passing into a foreign state, taking out regular passports, which required various signatures, before we could be allowed to pass the barriers. As we could meet with no certain water conveyance, we took our places in one of the coaches that are constantly plying between Vienna and Presburg. The fare was five florins each, for a distance of about forty-five miles, and which is commonly travelled in about six hours, and this with the same set of horses, only resting for an hour about midway for refreshment. The government, I am informed, have lately established one of the quick stages on this road.

After travelling some miles, we came abreast of the island of Lobau, where a bloody battle was fought with the French, in the year 1809. After this we passed the small town of Heinburg, where there is a manufactory of tobacco, an article which is monopolized by the imperial government, and which it may be conceived is productive of a great revenue, as the plant grows plentifully in Hungary, and

after its preparation, is consumed under an excessive duty.

Soon afterwards we passed the last village in the Austrian states, where there is a custom-house, that keeps as strict a surveillance over the imports from Hungary as if they were received from a rival nation. Soon after leaving this place we passed the frontier line, and entered the kingdom of Hungary. During this journey our road had lain on the right bank of the Danube, and occasionally approached close to that river, which runs in a digressive or serpentine direction, and occasionally divides itself into branches, so as to form numerous small islands, the scenery throughout being richly wooded with fir-trees, and often beautifully picturesque. In the immediate vicinity of Presburg the river forms itself into one body, which flows along in silent majesty, although with a rapid current.

Before entering the city of Presburg we crossed to the left bank of the river by a raft, or rather floating bridge, on a similar principle to the one over the Rhine at Cologne. It is formed of two boats, across which one

common deck, about eighteen yards wide, and twenty-six in length, is extended; the whole of which is secured in its course across the river by a strong cable, that connects it with eight boats that are moored in a line, at short distances from each other; by means of these, aided by the current, the raft is carried from one side to the other.

On arriving at Presburg, we drove to the Green Tree, the second best inn in the place; immediately after which we commenced our examination of the town. In the first place we visited the castle, which stands on a commanding eminence; its interior was destroyed by fire about fifteen years since, and it is now occupied as a barrack.

The parish church is an ancient Gothic structure, remarkable for its grand altar, on which is an equestrian statue of St. Stephen. The ceremony of the coronation of the kings of Hungary is performed in this church, although the regalia are preserved in the cathedral.

Presburg contains twenty-six thousand inhabitants, and is divided into two parts; the city, properly so called; and the town, which

belongs to Count Palfy. In the centre of the principal street, or the large place, is a walk, consisting of four alleys, divided by rows of chesnut-trees; and at a short distance from the end of this walk a neat oblong square building, which contains the theatre and ball-rooms. Provisions of all kinds, and especially wines, are cheaper than at Vienna, which latter city derives its grain and horned cattle from Hungary. The duties on the wines amount to nearly three times their first cost.

Early on the following morning we left Presburg, on our return to Vienna, where we arrived at two o'clock.

This being Passion Week, it was observed with much religious ceremony at Vienna. On the Thursday, the emperor and empress, in commemoration of our Saviour's act of humiliation, performed the ceremony of washing the feet of twelve poor men and as many women; and the bishop also went through a similar ceremony at the cathedral. On Thursday, Good-Friday, and Saturday, the streets were crowded with devout people, pressing from church to church, to visit the

different tombs of our Saviour, that were decked out in theatrical style, and beautifully illuminated, the windows being darkened to heighten the effect. It is almost unnecessary to add that all the theatres were closed during this week. On Saturday, the arch-traitor, Judas, was burnt in the streets, and at the doors of some of the churches; and in the afternoon, at the supposed time of the resurrection, a grand procession moved slowly round the cathedral, and the squares in which the principal churches stand.

On Easter Monday the emperor and empress attended mass in high state at the Cathedral of St. Stephen, escorted by the Hungarian body-guard in their fullest dress, being almost entirely covered over with gold lace.

On the 28th I had the pleasure of visiting the hospital, and hearing Dr. Raymond deliver a clinical lecture, after which I went through the several wards. All classes of people may be admitted, but those who can afford it pay one florin convention money, equal to two shillings, or a little more, per day, for their

accommodation, including medical attendance and every other necessary comfort.

Vienna, within the walls, is comparatively a small city; the houses are lofty, and the streets generally very narrow, but well paved, and kept in a state of great cleanliness. Notwithstanding the closeness of the buildings, few alarms from fire are experienced, and I was assured that the oldest inhabitant does not recollect a house being burnt to the ground, not even during the bombardment by the French, when the shells sometimes partially destroyed them. This speaks much for the excellent arrangement of the fire department.

In the year 1815 the population of Vienna and its suburbs was two hundred and thirty-nine thousand two hundred and seventy-three; in 1822 it had increased to two hundred and sixty-six thousand five hundred and fifty-five, exclusive of the garrison and strangers. Of these, fifty-one thousand five hundred and twenty-five inhabited the city; forty-three thousand four hundred and two the suburbs on the Wieder; twenty thousand one hundred

and eight the Leopoldstadt; eighteen thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine the Landshape; fifteen thousand three hundred and thirty-two the Scholtenfeld; fourteen thousand four hundred and nine the New-Baw; and fourteen thousand four hundred and eighty-seven the Alsee-Ground.

There are abundance of hotels and eating-houses in this city, which still supports its character for good living. "At Vienna they do nothing but eat." This proverb, however, is not so correct, but that the other incidental luxuries of a great city are freely indulged in, so that it is not uncommon for persons of all ranks to outlive their incomes. During the last twenty years, however, a considerable change has taken place with respect to the habits of the inhabitants of Vienna, for while their pecuniary means have been gradually decreasing, the duties and taxes have been proportionately augmented, particularly since this

"Kissing time of peace."

A rooted love of pleasure, however, still pervades the breasts of all ranks.

The hotels have latterly much improved, both as respects their comforts and cleanliness; nor are their charges exorbitant. The bed-chambers are kept in particularly neat order; and I failed not to notice that, instead of blankets and counterpane, the upper covering always consisted of a small down bed. The *table d'hote* is prohibited at the hotels, so that the stranger generally dines at an eating-house, *a la carte*. Every gradation of respectability may be found with regard to these eating-houses, from the splendid accommodation of the fashionable Widmans, down to the ten-penny dinner. I once partook of a dinner on the latter scale, when five dishes were served up, and with respect to which I found nothing objectionable. As for coffee-houses and billiard-rooms, they are met with in every street.

Vienna has at all times been celebrated for its hospitality to strangers. If a foreigner is but provided with letters of introduction, he readily gets admitted into abundance of society. The chief point of attention necessary to keep up a visiting acquaintance, is to make

frequent calls between five and seven in the evening, morning visits being unfashionable, unless the family are actually from home. These are the immediate keys to dinner invitations, nor is it thought disrespectful to take advantage of them; on the contrary, it is regarded as the highest compliment you can pay a family.

On leaving these parties it is the custom to make a present of money to the servants; the least which is expected is a couple of florins, paper money; there is also, on all occasions, notwithstanding the staircase is as light as day from fixed lamps, a fellow in the anti-room ready to light you out with a torch, who expects a piece of silver for his semblance of attention. Again, if it is after ten o'clock, as the outer door is always closed at that hour, according to the regulations of the police, the porter must be paid for opening it.

The Prater is the fashionable drive of Vienna; in summer the *beau monde* resort to it between four and seven in the afternoon;

in winter, however, from one to two is the fashionable hour. Here the dandies

> "Turn and wind their fiery Pegasus,
> And witch the world with noble horsemanship."

In the height of summer, numbers resort to coffee-houses in the public gardens, or the walks on the glacis and bastions, where they are amused with bands of music. Balls, however, are by no means frequent, except during the carnival, when the people are literally dancing mad.

The inhabitants of Vienna are excessively fond of making excursions to the numerous gardens and villages in the vicinity of the city; indeed they boast much of the beauty of the environs; nor without reason, for few capitals in Europe are placed in the midst of more interesting scenery. On Sundays and holidays the citizens swarm from out of the town, in vehicles of every description, and spread themselves, midst clouds of dust, in all directions, to enjoy the pleasures of feasting, fiddling, smoking, and dancing; for although

they affect this fondness for rural felicity, it must be in the full participation of their accustomed town amusements; divested of these a country life, *a l'Anglois*, would only be tiresome to them.

The more favourite places of resort in the environs, are the village of Moedling, the valley of Bruhl; the village of Keizing, near the imperial palace of Schoenbrum; Pensing, and Tvelling; here furnished lodgings of all kinds may be had by those who do not possess private country establishments.

Near the village of Dornbeck is a chateau, built by Marshal Lacy, situated on a hill and richly embellished by plantations of trees, shrubs, flowers, and exotic plants. A range of mountains proudly command the city, the highest of which are the Kahlenberg and the Leopoldberg; these rise one hundred and forty toises above the level of the Danube. On the former has been erected a church and twenty-seven houses. These mountains command most extensive and picturesque views, and are much frequented.

The village of Nupdorf, situated on the Danube, is famous for small crabs, to feast upon which many parties are made, upon the same principle as our London gourmands visit Greenwich to partake of white-bait.

Except at the time of the carnival, no other than theatrical amusements are permitted at Vienna in the evening; even concerts must take place previous to four o'clock in the afternoon; this theatrical monopoly has arisen from a fear of depressing the interests of the stage, by allowing other spectacles.

The following specimen of German illiberality occurred this Easter. The celebrated Beethoven, who is unrivalled for his depth of composition, genius, and talent, wished to give a concert, that would doubtlessly have afforded the most exquisite treat to all who have any soul for the sublimity of music. He engaged some of the principal singers of the opera, when Barbaja, the proprietor of that establishment, interposed and refused his assent; this illiberality prevented Beethoven from accomplishing his object, and thus the public were

deprived of the opportunity of doing honour to one who will hereafter be termed their immortal townsman.

The public redoubte rooms are probably the largest in Europe, being capable of accommodating not less than five thousand people; they are situated adjoining to the imperial palace, called the Burg. Here, during the carnival, masked balls are given; and concerts occasionally at other times.

There are several fine theatres at Vienna; the one which stands first in rank, as maintaining the highest purity of the German stage, since none other than German dramas are performed at it, is the Imperial Theatre, near the Burg, under the superintendence of the high chamberlain, and the immediate direction of his excellency Count Maurice Dierichstein. The company of performers is numerous, exceedingly select, and considered, after that of Berlin, the finest in Germany. After ten years constant service the performers are permitted to retire on a pension of one-third of their former salary; after twenty

years, of a half; and after forty years, upon full pay.

The German drama, as well as the press generally, is under the surveillance of a rigid censorship, constituted for that purpose. When a new work is approved of by these wise-heads, three proof copies must be delivered in, one to the office of the censors, one to the public, and the third to the university library. All foreign works are submitted to the same ordeal, before their circulation is allowed of.

The Italian opera and ballets are performed at the theatre near the Kertner Ther, which is under the management of Barbaja, formerly director of the theatres of Palermo and Naples, and who receives annually from the emperor a hundred and forty thousand florins, convention money, towards defraying the expences. The orchestra is most excellent, but the company of singers by no means correspondent. The *prima donna* is Madame Gumbaum. Signor David, the first tenor, in science is surpassed by few, but although an accomplished singer, is not equal to what his father

was; Donzelli is an excellent tenor, and throws out his voice with great boldness. The bass, Signor Ambrogé, has a mellow voice, and sings with much science and perspicuity. When I heard Caraffa's opera of Gabrielli de Vergi, Signora Dardanelli took the first part; she is, however, now not so great a favourite as formerly, her voice having fallen off within the last three years. The price of admission, according to the different situations of the house, is from fifteen paper florins to forty kritzers.

The largest and most splendid theatre, however, is the royal one, on the Wienne, which was commenced building in 1797, and finished in 1800. The stage is capacious enough to contain five hundred persons and fifty horses, and has large folding doors behind to admit the entrance of cavalry from the street. In this house are performed all kinds of tragedy, comedy, melodramas, pantomimes, operas, and ballets. It was for some years famous for its children ballets, which were the pride and joy of great babies. Children of tender age were trained to these performances, and really

acted extremely well; but the system was found to be a nursery for vice, and, by the order of the emperor, interdicted about three years since.

April 21st, all the places in the flying diligence being engaged, I took a place in a Voiture de Voyage, with an intention of setting off for Prague on the next day but one, and paid one half of the fare; I had, however, the mortification of being informed, that this carriage would not set out at the time proposed, and I only recovered my money by making it a point of honour with the innkeeper, who acted as agent for the proprietors; I had no alternative but to secure the first vacant place in the diligence, and which I could not avail myself of until the following Tuesday.

In this interval the doctor and myself determined to take the opportunity of visiting Baden, which is at the distance of four posts from Vienna; to effect this we engaged a calash, for twelve florins, and a short journey of three hours brought us to this fashionable bathing place. After visiting the princi-

pal baths, we walked in the park and pleasure grounds, and in particular ascended a hill planted with various trees and shrubs, and laid out in a variety of serpentine walks. We here passed many small chapels, or rather niches for the reception of saints, one of which contained the figure of our Saviour lying in a sepulchre. From the top of this hill the prospect is commanding and beautiful. On our way down we passed what was formerly a hermitage, but is now, perhaps more congenial with German taste, a traiteurs; from hence we took a road which leads to a new palace, that has lately been built by the Archduke Charles. After leaving the latter place we proceeded to the ruins of an old baronial castle, named Rauenstein, and which is said to have been erected seven centuries since.

Baden is a neat modern town, full of hotels and lodging-houses, which are well filled in the summer season. The imperial family generally pass more or less time at this place every summer, and have contributed much to its improvement and embellishment. In the evening we returned to Vienna.

On Sunday, the 25th, after attending divine service at the ambassador's and dining with Baron Eskeles, I had the pleasure of meeting at Mr. Bradford's, the Marquis de Beaumanoir, who had lately recovered his sight, in consequence of an operation performed upon him by professor Maunoir, the celebrated surgeon and oculist of Geneva, after having suffered the deprivation of it for fifteen years, in consequence of the effect of the snow and climate of Siberia, to which country he had been exiled during the reign of the emperor Paul, for reasons which have never been ascertained. This gentleman strongly urged me to place myself immediately under the care of the professor, who he doubted not would be the means of restoring me to the blessings of sight, since previous to visiting Geneva, his own case had been declared hopeless by many skilful oculists. In the evening I drank tea with Dr. Frank, whose father was a grand supporter of the Brunonian system of medicine. The son had also been a zealous disciple, but after a visit to England, became so convinced of the fallacy of their doctrine,

that on his return he publicly renounced the error which filial duty had led him to embrace.

On Monday, the day previous to my departure I visited the Belvidere Museum, to examine the interesting and curious cabinet of armoury, and other works of art, transferred to this city from the Castle of Ambrass, in the Tyrol, on the cession of that country to Bavaria, in the year 1806. It was collected in the sixteenth century, by the Archduke Frederick of Austria, second son of the Emperor Ferdinand the First.

In the entrance room of this museum is a large and fine mosaic, by Rafaelli, copied from Leonardi de Vinci's last supper, and which is considered a most valuable specimen of that art. After leaving the Belvidere, I visited the Botanic Garden, and then returned home to prepare for my journey on the morrow.

CHAPTER XIV.

The Author leaves Vienna — Prague — English convent— Carlsbad — Return to Prague — Toplitz—Peterswald — Bilin — Dresden—Leipsic — The fair—The magnetizing ostler—Wittenburg—Berlin.

I LEFT Vienna at six in the morning of April 27th, in a double-bodied flying diligence, which carried eight inside, and three outside passengers, besides the guard. My situation was on the outside, at the back of the vehicle, with a companion who I soon found was not likely to prove interesting to me, as we were acquainted with no language intelligible to both; he endeavoured, however, to compensate the deficiency of conversation by the abundance of smoke which issued from his inextinguishable pipe; probably he was not conscious of the annoyance he was giving me,

as in other respects he appeared to be an obliging, unaffected young man. During our journey, of two days, I met with no occurrence of interest, except that on the afternoon of the second, exhausted by fatigue, heat, and dust, I fell asleep, and lost my stick, the hitherto constant companion of my long and weary journey, for many a thousand miles; it was like parting with an old and attached friend, and a blow upon my feelings which it took me some time to recover from. After we entered Bohemia, I frequently heard itinerant musicians playing on the roads and in the villages, and which is the custom in this country.

At half after seven in the evening we arrived at Prague. One of the inside passengers, a young Swiss physician, kindly offered to conduct me to the hotel, the Golden Angel, where he proposed to take up his own residence, and where we occupied the same apartment, so that Providence was again propitious in affording me an organ of communication with my fellow men in this strange city. I had, however, some letters of introduction which I delivered in the morning, and which

procured me very polite receptions. During my stay in Prague I visited the college, and had the honour to be introduced to several of its professors. I also visited the English convent, or the Nunnery of St. Joseph, a branch of a religious institution that exists in various parts of Germany, but was originally established, about a hundred and fifty years since, at Brussels, by an English widow lady. The sisters take their vows only for a stated period, after which they are at liberty either to renew their term, or enter into the world again. They are permitted to walk about the town, and to receive visits at their convent, so that in fact the constitution is little more than a lady's seminary, with this peculiarity, that its inmates must continue in it a certain time, and wear a kind of monastic dress, similar to what the widows of England formerly wore.

On the 30th, immediately after dinner at the hotel, during which we were amused, or, more correctly speaking, stunned with a concert of horn, clarionette, and other instrumental music, I set out for Carlsbad, in a *voiture de voyage*, or *lands-kutcher*, for which the fare

was ten florins or francs. In the evening we put up for the night at a small inn at the distance of four German miles from Prague. The room into which I was introduced was set out with long tables, crowded with company of every description, except what might be termed respectable, and who were occupied in the interesting employments of eating, drinking, and smoking; and what perhaps was consistent enough, it was the custom for any fresh person who entered to wish the whole party a good appetite.

Our host, a man of no ordinary corporeal dimension, particularly as respected his abdominal circumference, appeared to be regarded as a great linguist, a man of learning, and the very oracle of the neighbourhood. He kindly came to entertain myself with a specimen of his powers, when I found him possessed of a slight knowledge of French, less Italian, and scarcely a word of English; for all of which, however, he was looked upon as a kind of prodigy by his companions. The little information he had gained was acquired during

several years of military service, in the capacity of a non-commissioned officer.

At half after four in the morning, we recommenced our journey, but, notwithstanding an agreement to the contrary, did not arrive at Carlsbad until eight o'clock on the following morning. During this day's journey we stopped to dine at a miserable inn, where some one or other, perhaps the driver, opened a small bag of mine that I had left in the carriage, unfolded a clean shirt, and stole from within it a silk handkerchief; this theft I did not detect until the evening.

There was at this time very little company in this town, which is the most fashionable bathing-place of Germany; there were, however, reports of one or more crowned heads passing part of the summer at it, but which probably originated from the wishes of the inhabitants, rather than from any authentic source.

After spending a day in Carlsbad, during which I visited the different medicated springs, in company with a physician of the place to

whom I had an introduction, and who pointed out to me the virtues of each, I again, as I was neither afflicted with gout or melancholy, entered a coach and set off on my return to Prague, which I preferred to taking a more direct route to Toplitz, under the obligation of having to travel alone at a most exorbitant charge, in consequence of there being no public stages upon that road at this season of the year. In the evening we slept at the same inn as we had rested at on the preceding night, and where they must have taken me for a gentleman, as on both occasions they gave me a bed-room to myself.

On the second night we halted at the same house as we had slept at after leaving Prague, and where the fat and accomplished landlord adopted a new mode of entertaining me, by placing himself at my side with his guitar and accompanying it with his voice, but whether it arose from his want of skill or my want of taste, I did not find his singing so bewitching as that of the *prima donna* of the opera. I had some difficulty in getting him to comprehend my wish to have tea prepared;

at length, however, he sent to the apothecary's for some, and when it arrived exultingly brought it to me, in a small flat paper, made up like an emetic powder, exclaiming "it is right good Russian." On examination I found about half a tea-spoonful of fine grained scented tea; when I complained of the small quantity, he assured me it was very strong; it was therefore put into the pot, and I certainly, in all the course of my travels, never drank any beverage of the kind that tasted stronger—of the water.

On entering Prague at ten o'clock on the following morning, I was put down at the hotel where I had formerly resided, and spent the remainder of the day in perambulating the town, visiting my friends, and arranging for my departure on the morrow. In accomplishing the latter I am particularly indebted to Mr. Lamel, jun. the banker of this city.

Few cities have experienced more of the horrors of war than Prague, particularly at the ever-memorable battle on the 6th of May, 1757, when the Austrians, under Prince Charles of Lorrain, were defeated by Fre-

derick the Great. The inhabitants still point out the stone on which General Schwerin, by whose personal bravery the fortunes of the day were decided, expired, after receiving his mortal wound. So long as it continued the capital of an independent kingdom, Prague was a flourishing city; it is now, however, comparatively deserted, although still retaining a degree of commerce, and an university, that once was in high repute, although it has suffered materially in consequence of the greater attraction which Vienna, as the capital, has of late afforded to men of genius and science. The necessaries of life are here comparatively cheap.

Before leaving Prague I visited the tomb of Tycho Brach, whose effigy may be seen in *basso relievo*. After this I set off in the diligence for Toplitz and Dresden, when, after travelling four posts, we put up for the night. I had three female companions inside of the coach; they did not, however, prove in the least degree interesting. At seven in the evening of the second day we arrived at Toplitz, when I called upon a physician, to whom

I had a letter of introduction, and who most obligingly conducted me to the different baths, and explained the nature and action of the waters, which did not appear to differ essentially from those of Carlsbad, otherwise than as being less powerful. The town was very destitute of visitors, but as the king of Prussia was looked for soon, the inhabitants were on the *qui vive*, expecting a considerable influx.

Finding little to interest me in Toplitz, on the following morning (Saturday, the 7th,) I set off for Dresden, and during the journey had the agreeable society of an intelligent Prussian gentleman. Soon after leaving Toplitz, we passed over the hill and through the village of Peterswald, and shortly after arrived at the Austrian custom-house, on the frontier of Saxony, which kingdom we entered with less than usual annoyance from custom-house officers. At Bilin, where we dined, we met with a Vienna bookseller, and a part of his family, one of whom was a great invalid, and who were upon an agreeable tour, having taken Leipsic fair in their route, thus conjoin-

ing, business, pleasure, and health. At six in the evening we arrived at Dresden, and drove to the Golden Anchor.

As I was anxious to reach Leipsic before the fair concluded, I determined not to prolong my stay in Dresden beyond the morrow. It was necessary, however, to have my passport signed by the acting Prussian minister; but he refused to comply with my request, until our own minister had previously authenticated it. This gave me much trouble, for by the time I had procured the signature of the latter, the former had left town, and was not expected to return before night. I ventured, notwithstanding, to make every other arrangement for leaving early on the following morning; and taking care to have a servant in waiting at the minister's, I got this part of the business settled about twelve at night, contrary to the expectation of every one, who were surprised at my coolness and perseverance, in engaging a place under such doubtful circumstances.

During this day I amused myself with examining the fine city of Dresden. In the

morning I attended divine service at the Catholic chapel, where the king and his family were present. The music was very fine, but of such a character as to remind me more of a theatrical than religious performance. When the service concluded, I walked to the Frederickstadt, a very agreeable, shady walk. At dinner I was placed near an Italian opera-singer, who acquainted me that she was on her way to Russia. In the afternoon I crossed the Elbe, by the bridge, to the new town, and visited Finlater's Tea-Gardens, made by a nobleman of that name, at a distance of two miles from the city. I also took an opportunity of sending off a part of my luggage, particularly my warm Russian clothing, now useless to me, down the Elbe to Hamburg, where it was to wait my arrival.

At seven in the morning I left Dresden alone in a *voiture de voyage*, but soon afterwards was joined by a countryman, who kept company with me to Leipsic. We dined at Messen, where we were much gratified by visiting the ancient cathedral, castle, and

tower. We afterwards proceeded on our journey, and arrived in the evening at a small town, eight German miles from Dresden, where we passed the night.

At noon, on the following day, we entered the city of Leipsic, amidst the busy noise of tradesmen, pedlars, and merchants of all nations. The bustle of the fair had, however, nearly subsided, this being the last week, which is principally occupied in arranging the accounts for the sales of the preceding three weeks. The *table d'hote* where we dined, presented an assembly of merchants, the confused jargon of whose conversation, combined with the noise of a band of music, produced such a medley of discordant tones as is rarely to be witnessed.

After dinner I walked about the town, and visited some tea-gardens, where music, dancing, drinking, and smoking, were the prevailing amusements. At one of the coffee-houses, the landlord perceiving my blindness, strongly recommended me to place myself under the care of a person at Torgau,—an

ostler,—who was celebrated for restoring the sight by means of animal magnetism, or some other occult art: to me this was

> "Like castles built by magic art in air,
> That vanish at approach."

Before our conference concluded, several other visitors joined us, and confirmed this recommendation.

On the following day I called with some letters of introduction, and was received with civility; it was evident, however, that the bustle of business absorbed every thought, so as to leave little room for friendly intercourse, and I therefore felt a delicacy in intruding upon them. A Scotch merchant from Hamburg, Mr. H——, in particular, showed me great attention. It was universally acknowledged that more business had been transacted during the present fair, than for many years preceding.

I was disappointed in my hopes of visiting the college and other public institutions of this town, by the absence of a friend who was

to have conducted me to them, and who was gone to witness the breaking of a criminal, on the wheel.

I soon experienced enough of bustle and confusion to content me with Leipsic, and, therefore, on the next day, secured a place in a *voiture de voyage* for Berlin, which was to set off early on the morrow.

Friday, the 14th, I left Leipsic at six in the morning, having in company an old and respectable Jew, a shopkeeper of Berlin, an officer's widow, and a German student. We were unusually detained at the custom-house on the Prussian frontiers, in consequence of our luggage being submitted to a rigid inspection, as being *in transitu* from the fair of Leipsic. As, however, it was evident I had no merchandize, with the kind interference of the Jew, my share in the scrutiny was soon concluded. We slept at the celebrated town and university of Wittenburg, where Martin Luther was a professor, and now lies entombed; we had, however, no time to visit his monument, or any other interesting object of the place.

Early in the morning we continued our journey, and at four arrived at Potsdam, from whence, after a stay of only half an hour, we pursued our route to Berlin, which city we entered the same evening in the midst of heavy rain.

In the course of this afternoon, a tragical event occurred between Berlin and Potsdam. A respectable young man, having left the former city in company with a female to whom he was attached, but whose friends objected to their union, led her into the privacy of a wood, and drawing from his pocket a brace of pistols, shot her with one, and himself with the other.

CHAPTER XV.

Berlin—Letter from Sir C. Bagot—Mr. Withy's arrest in Russia—Amateur concert—Institution for the blind—The Anatomical Museum—The Author refused a place in the diligence on account of his blindness—General Hospital—Mode of treating insanity—Royal Library—Tomb of the late Queen at Charlottenburg—Brandenburg—Magdeburg—Brunswick—Hildesheim—Hanover—Bremen—Wine vaults—Lead cellar—Its property of preserving from putrefaction—Hamburg—The Author sails for England—Arrival at Hull.

In the morning, after arriving at Berlin, being Sunday, the 16th, I waited on our ambassador, and had the pleasure of finding a letter from his excellency Sir Charles Bagot, which contained the first official account I had received of his being acquainted with my arrest. It was so far satisfactory, that it appeared the Russians did not accuse me of any breach of the laws of their country; and I had also his

excellency's assurance that no part of my private conduct was held up to the slightest degree of obloquy. This, however, was a poor satisfaction for the sufferings I had been exposed to, and the mortifying manner in which I had been sent from out of the country. I also received some valuable introductions, particularly one through the medium of my friend Sir T. A——, which secured me the friendly attentions of Mr. W—d, a gentleman attached to the embassy; as well as every kind assistance from Lord Clanwillliam himself.

At the *table d'hote* of the inn where I had taken my residence, I had the pleasure of meeting a party of my countrymen, as well as a gentleman of this city, for whom I discovered I had a letter of introduction; the latter invited me to his house, and I accompanied him to the opera in the evening.

On the following day, I was introduced to Mr. Withy, a gentleman who, like myself, had experienced the arbitrary power of the Russian government. This was singular enough, but in one respect our cases essentially differed; I had been compelled to leave

the country contrary to my inclination, whereas he had been forcibly detained when he was desirous of leaving it.

He had entered Russia, by way of Poland, during the preceding summer, in company with a Frenchman, visited Moscow, and passed the winter in St. Petersburg, during a great part of which he had resided in the family of Prince Potemkin; early in the spring he left that capital, with the intention of accompanying another French gentleman to Paris, but, just before arriving at the frontiers of the empire, was arrested by a police officer, who informed him that he must accompany him back to Riga. He was now compelled to quit his own companion and easy carriage, and take a place by the side of the officer in an uneasy post telega, a small four-wheeled cart, without springs, the motion of which was so unusual and distressing (for he had not like myself had the experience of travelling more than five thousand versts in such a vehicle,) that he actually feared his joints would have been dislocated. Before he had arrived at the end of the second station, he declared his inability

to proceed farther, when the guard informed him, that on giving him a certificate to that effect, he would permit him to remain at the next post-house. When they arrived at this point he examined Mr. W.'s letters and papers, demanding explanations of all parts which he could not comprehend, after which he left him in order to make a personal report to the governor of Riga. In about a fortnight afterwards a passport was transmitted to him, accompanied by a civil letter, in English, regretting the circumstance of his detention, but in no respect explanatory of the motives that led to it.

On Tuesday I had the pleasure of attending a concert composed of amateurs of both sexes, who meet twice a week, and perform under the superintendence of the university professor of music; I was much gratified by the taste they displayed.

On the following day I visited the institution for the blind, the director of which gave himself great trouble to make me comprehend the system of instruction; I did not find it materially differ from what I had previously been

acquainted with. The pupils are taught geography from globes and charts constructed expressly for the purpose, with raised lines and other prominences indicative of the various subjects usually displayed on the face of these instruments. Afterwards I was taken to the Anatomical Museum, where, amongst other remarkable objects, was preserved the skeleton of Frederick the Great's giant, seven feet eight inches in height.

On the 20th I called at the post-diligence office with the view of securing a place for Magdeburg, and was not a little surprised on being informed that their regulations positively prevented them from taking a blind passenger. In consequence of this communication, accompanied by a friend, I waited upon the director, but being engaged at a counsel, we addressed ourselves to a gentleman whom we found at his office, and who most politely assured us that the regulation did exist, but that he would endeavour to procure a suspension of it in my favour. The reason he assigned was, that no ground for detention should be occasioned by the necessity the

driver would be under of assisting such passenger in and out of the coach. It appears, however, by the following clause in their regulations, that another reason existed for the exclusion, and which, although the enforcing it, in my instance, would have been a gross misconstruction, still might be deemed sufficient for German precision to act upon.

"11th. The postillions are forbidden, under a penalty, to take up any person secretly, or such as are called *blind passengers*, for the consideration of a fee, or drink-money."

In the afternoon my friend received a letter from the director, which removed the difficulty I was placed under; the following is a translation of this official document.

"SIR,

"I AM just in receipt of your communication of this day, and respectfully acquaint you, that a place has been secured by the flying post to Magdeburg—an exception made in favour of the celebrated blind Mr. Holman.

"I feel much pleasure in having been able to meet your wishes in accomplishing this.

"I am, &c."

Besides the Magdeburg post, there is a flying diligence to Hamburg every day, notwithstanding the road is very bad. A new *chaussèe* has been commenced from Berlin to Koningsberg, which will contribute materially to the pleasure and comfort of the traveller; in short, a spirit of road-improvement appears to be general at this time throughout the whole of Germany.

On Friday, the 21st, I had the honour of dining with his excellency Lord Clanwilliam, and meeting a party of distinguished countrymen; after which I visited the Academy of Natural History, which contains a good collection of animals, well preserved.

On the following day I derived much interest from a visit to the General Hospital, and particularly from the department appropriated for the reception of lunatics, of whom there were not less than a hundred and fifty. The greater part of these unfortunates were

occupied in, and apparently much amused by, what children would call "playing at soldiers," being practised, with wooden muskets, in the various detail of the manual and platoon exercise. One of them, a French count, went through the various motions, with as much attention and subordination, as if he had never held a higher rank than that of a common soldier.

In this institution the following machines are used in the treatment of the more violent cases, and as the keeper assured us, with the happiest effects. One consists of a box, somewhat resembling a pulpit, in which the patient is placed in an erect position, and which, acting on a pivot, is then whirled round with great velocity; during the greatest momentum of which the whole is suddenly stopped, so as to produce an indescribable impression, or shock, on the cerebral circulation of the individual subjected to its motion.

One of the results is vomiting, which is said to operate powerfully in lessening the violence of the maniacal paroxysm. The other machine is a horizontal bed or sofa, in which

the patient is also moved round with inconceivable rapidity, the feet forming the centre of revolution; after which the motion is suddenly arrested, as with the former instrument.

The above treatment is said also to be efficacious in the restoration of speech, muscular motion, and digestive power, when lost in consequence of paralysis.

The ordinary methods of treating insanity, as by pumping water on the head, &c. &c. are, however, not neglected in this institution.

The wards of the hospital are not kept particularly clean, or well ventilated, for I never remember being more unpleasantly affected by the effluvia of such an establishment. On enquiring into this point, it was accounted for, as I was informed, that the windows are never opened, except for an hour or two on fine days. The expences of this hospital, which are defrayed by the government, are not less than a hundred thousand dollars annually, although many of the invalids pay the full price of their accommodation.

I afterwards visited the royal library, comprising three hundred thousand volumes, and

which is open to all respectable persons, and who are allowed even to take books out with them, under certain restrictions. This is, indeed, a royal indulgence! I was introduced to Mr. Speaker, the director, who offered me many both present and future civilities, but my stay at Berlin was too short to allow me to avail myself of the latter.

In the evening of this day a friend accompanied me to the tomb of the late queen of Prussia, at Charlottenburg; in our way to which we passed out of the city by the magnificent Brandenburg Gate.

We here took one of the coaches which are always in attendance at this place, and, after a drive of four miles, arrived at Charlottenburg, where we were conducted through the grounds to the royal mausoleum. The ground-floor of the entrance is paved with marble; from hence we ascended some steps to a large recess, where the monument of the queen is placed. The body is deposited beneath in a vault, to which you descend by a broad marble staircase; his majesty, however, retains in his own possession the keys of this

apartment, which more immediately contains the mortal remains of his beloved consort, and which it is said he frequently visits

> "On earth thou wert all but divine,
> As thy soul shall immortally be,
> And our sorrow may cease to repine,
> When we know that thy God is with thee."

I returned to Berlin deeply impressed with admiration of the virtues of this royal pair.

On Sunday, the 22d, I attended a concert of amateurs at a banker's in this city, for which, perhaps, some will condemn me; but it is my opinion that the traveller should conform (as far as can consistently be done without any serious breach of moral and religious principle) with the usages of the countries which he is visiting.

I afterwards had the honour of dining with the Earl of Dartmouth and Lord Ingleby, whom I had met at our ambassador's, and with whom the time passed so agreeably, that I almost forgot the post-diligence by which I was this evening to take my departure; it was only by the kind assistance of some

friends who were waiting for me that I saved my distance.

My companions to Magdeburg were two ill-bred officers, an elderly gentleman, with a niece as aged as himself, and another non-descript passenger.

At midnight we took coffee at Brandenburg, at seven A. M. breakfasted at Burg, and before noon entered the town of Magdeburg, when I lost no time in securing a place in the diligence for Brunswick, for which city we set out at one P. M., in what was certainly a very different vehicle to the flying diligence I had just left, and in contra-distinction to which it might properly be termed the "creeping diligence." We stopped, in short, every where, and for every body; and when we did make progress, it was at the rate of not more than two or three miles in the hour. At nine in the evening, just before entering the Brunswick territory, we changed this lazy carriage to one still worse. The former was one of the old diligences, but the latter I conclude the oldest, as it certainly must have been built more than a century

back. The cushions, originally stuffed with hair, were compressed to a closeness resembling wood; at the same time the roads became so execrably bad, that I was almost afraid our coach would have become a *fixture* in the midst of them.

At four o'clock in the morning of the 25th we entered the city of Brunswick, and I was anxious to have proceeded immediately by diligence to Hanover, but was disappointed to find it did not set off before the following morning. In consequence I was induced to take a carriage as far as Hildesheim, in conjunction with three of my late companions, from which place I was to proceed alone. Brunswick, except during the periods of the fairs, is a remarkably dull town.

At three o'clock we arrived at Hildesheim, in the vicinity of which is the town and monastery of Lamspringe. The latter, originally founded by Louis the pious, was, until the peace of Westphalia, under the protection of Count Winzenburg, but becoming insolvent, was sold in the year 1664, with the consent of the Emperor of Germany, to Clemens Reiner,

for the purpose of affording an asylum to Catholic priests. It was subsequently converted into an English monastery, for the education of the sons of Catholic priests, and continued as such until 1803, when Prussia took possession of it, and pensioned off the priests.

From Hildesheim, having parted with my companions, I proceeded to Hanover, where I arrived in the evening, and took up my residence at Ahle's Hotel, which I believe is the best in the place. I spent the greater part of a week in visiting whatever was most worthy of notice in this city, as well as the more interesting places in its vicinity; not that I found the attractions of the place sufficient to occupy so much time with advantage; one of my motives for remaining was the expectation I entertained that an old friend who resided in this place, but was absent, would return in time to allow me the gratification of seeing him.

On Monday, the 31st, I set out for Bremen, where I arrived about noon on the following day, and putting up at the Frankfort Hotel, was most agreeably surprised at finding there

an English lady with whom I was acquainted, and who had just arrived on her way from St. Petersburg to England, so that I had the gratification of hearing of many friends in that city.

I had the pleasure of spending the evening at the house of Mr. Dennaker, a senator of this place, whose amiable daughter, with her husband, politely accompanied me to its celebrated wine-cellar. The first vault we entered contained twelve casks, known by the respective names of the twelve apostles. I was invited to partake of Judas Iscariot, which was considered the best, having been filled with the finest Rhenish wine, in the year 1718. I should not be surprised at its proving treacherous to any one who might venture to drink deeply of it. From hence we were conducted into a second room, called the Rose, where the oldest and best wines are deposited. I was here first presented with some drawn from a cask that had been filled in 1636, and afterwards another kind, dated back as far as 1624, which was the oldest in the cellar. Both these wines were certainly

superior to Judas, although they had not the cordial-like flavour I expected. It cannot be supposed that much of the original wine remains in these vessels, as they are filled up from time to time with newer wine. With respect to the apostles, any person may be supplied with whatever quantity he pleases, and there is a room adjoining, where it may be drank by parties. None can be procured from the Rose without the express order of a senator, which is only expected to be issued in cases of severe illness, when the effects are thought to be miraculous. The price of the apostles is a bar to a rapid consumption, as they do not charge less than a guinea a bottle for the oldest, and I believe it is generally taken more from curiosity than inclination, for the city abounds with excellent wines from all parts of the world, at comparatively reasonable prices; they being together with tobacco and sugar, the principal articles of its commerce.

The third and last apartment we were shown into was named Bacchus's Room, from its containing an immense cask, with this

deity astride it. We did not, however, sacrifice to the merry, reeling god; but, quitting the cellar, proceeded to refresh ourselves with a walk on the ramparts, which have lately been converted into a delightful promenade.

On the following day I visited the cathedral, and from thence proceeded to the Lead Cellar, as it is termed, in consequence of the lead for the use of the cathedral having been formerly kept in it. It has the singular property of preserving from decay, or decomposition, any animal matter that is deposited in it; and from the many bodies that are consequently to be found here, it might not unaptly be termed the "Dead Cellar." This property is said to have been accidentally discovered from some poultry having been left in it, and forgotten, and which were afterwards found in an incorrupted state, with the juices dried up. A Swedish princess happening to die about this time, it was determined to place the body in the vault, with a view of preserving it until the directions of her family could be received as to its final disposition.

It proved that her relatives did not think her worth a funeral, nor did the senate feel desirous to incur the expence of one suitable to her rank; and therefore it was determined to let her remain in *statu quo*, and which she has now done for three hundred years.

Since this time other corpses have been deposited in this cellar. Amongst the rest, a plumber, fifty years of age, who fell from off the steeple, and severed his head from its body; this is said to have lain three hundred years;—an English countess, eighty years of age, belonging to the Stanhope family, who died of a cancer, and which has been in the vault two hundred years;—a Swedish general and his adjutant, who were killed near Bremen during the seven years' war; a cannon shot wound in the side of the latter is yet visible;—also a student, who fell in a duel about the same time; the wound of a sabre is still perceptible on the left shoulder, and the silken band of the garland made by his fair friends, in token of his unfortunate fate, yet remains.

There are also various other bodies preserved here. The whole formerly lay care-

lessly on the ground, but of late more decency has been observed, each body having been placed in a separate chest. I examined some of them with great attention, and found the skin resembling coarse, hard leather, under which, on making pressure, might be perceived the vacancies left by the drying-up or evaporation of the fluid parts. The hair was firm on the scalp, and the teeth and nails in a perfect state, the eyes dried up and deeply sunk into the orbits, and the nose like a double nose, from the cartilage, at its connexion with the *ossa nasi* having sunk down to a level with the face. . . . . .

There was a Muscovy duck in full plumage, which retained all its original beauty; and also a cat, that was supposed to have got in accidentally, and which lies coiled up as if asleep. . . . . .

At noon on this day I left Bremen in an old stage-waggon, and arrived at Harburg, on the left bank of the Elbe, at six on the following morning, when, after taking coffee, we crossed the river to Hamburg in a boat that

belonged to the coach. The morning was fine and calm, and as we glided smoothly along, I could not but pleasingly reflect on the importance of the great river over whose bosom I was now moving, and the many interesting scenes it had witnessed, both in ancient and modern times, and particularly those which had been acted during the late war, between the French and their various opponents. On arriving at Hamburg I was conducted by a porter to the King of England hotel. I had the pleasure of frustrating an imposition on the part of our guard and boatman, who, on landing, wanted to make me pay most exorbitantly for my passage, and which I had previously ascertained ought not to be one-fifth of what was demanded. Instead of contesting the point on the quay, I directed them to follow me to the hotel for payment; conscious, however, of their roguery, they were ashamed of coming, and I therefore sent a *valet de place* to discharge the proper fare.

I now went to dine in the country with a

friend, whom I had become acquainted with at Leipsic, and did not return to town until midnight, when I was charged at the gates twelve schillings (about one shilling English) for being admitted. This appeared to me no strong indication of a free city. I afterwards learnt that the gates are always closed at dark in winter, and nine o'clock in the summer, and that every person who enters after the latter hour is obliged to pay an increasing fine of four-pence per hour until midnight, after which time, unless he can make it appear that his business has been of importance, he is entirely excluded.

I had the pleasure of spending some days in this great commercial city previously to sailing for my native land, and during this time experienced the most gratifying attention and hospitality from many of its more respectable residents and merchants.

On Saturday, the 5th, a friend took me to a tea-garden at the village of Emshuttle, which was kept by a celebrated beauty, named Marianne; I know not how interesting she might have been in the eyes of those who

could see, but the coarseness of her voice and vulgarity of language excited any thing but ideas of beauty in my mind.

On the following day I had the honour of dining with our representative, Henry Canning, Esq. at his residence at Ottmerschen, three miles from the city.

One day I accompanied a friend to the Exchange-Hall, and had explained to me the various arrangements of this establishment, which is admirably adapted to promote the commercial interests of the city.

The following anecdote is related of the proprietor, who has had the misfortune to lose one of his eyes. A gentleman, who had also a similar deficiency in his optical organs, called one day to make a private communication to him, and expressed his wishes in this respect in the ordinary German phrase, which signifies literally to speak under four eyes. "Well, then," replied the honest Hamburger, 'I must call in my wife."

On the 12th I had the pleasure of dining with the members of the English book club, who gave a splendid dinner to their fair

countrywomen at Menstaden, a village six miles distant from the city. The day, however, proved most unfavourable, a circumstance which much diminished the gratification the party had anticipated.

The inhabitants of Hamburg are particularly fond of forming parties, and making excursions to the neighbouring villages and tea-gardens. To facilitate these enjoyments, and thinking it a good speculation, an Englishman has lately established a number of short stages, on the English system; and I believe both natives and foreigners are fully sensible of their great convenience, so that there can be little doubt that the proprietor will derive an ample remuneration.

In this city, as in Bremen, they are converting the ramparts into promenades and boulevardes, and which is, without doubt, a wise plan for free cities to adopt, as from the smallness of their territories it is not to be expected that they could support any national contest, or resist the attacks of a modern besieging army. Under such circumstances fortifications can only serve to invite the horrors of war,

either under the immediate introduction of enemies or friends, no matter which, as was pretty fully exemplified in the history of this city during the late war. To effect this purpose an annual tax has been imposed by the senate, and which it is calculated will complete the present plans in the course of ten or twelve years.

Notwithstanding the confined territory belonging to this city, an organized force, or militia, consisting both of cavalry and infantry, exists, and which is called out at stated periods for the purpose of training. The whole of the male population is liable to serve in these *corps d'armèe;* even the English merchants, who were formerly exempt, have since the late war been compelled to take their turn in this duty; they are endeavouring, however, to procure the removal of this restriction on their personal liberty.

The Hamburgers have a singular method of collecting money for the relief of their poor.

Twelve boys dressed in black-gowns, and wearing cocked hats, are to be seen every day parading the streets, under the superinten-

dence of an overseer. Two of them, one being on each side of the street, carry boxes for the reception of charitable donations, and enter each house for the purpose, as every householder is expected to contribute.

There are some other peculiar or interesting exhibitions to be occasionally seen in the streets of Hamburg. One is an annual procession of the orphan children of both sexes to collect benefactions for the support of the institutions to which they belong. They are all uniformly dressed, and three boys, who carry boxes fixed to long poles, for the purpose of reaching up to the windows of the first floor, wear garlands of flowers on their heads.

The funeral processions are also peculiar. The senate body-guard have the privilege of following the corpse on all such solemn occasions, and make a most ludicrous appearance, in consequence of the singularity of their dresses. They wear, for instance, black cloaks, with broad white frills, large powdered bag-wigs, and cocked hats, with swords by their sides. When a member of any corporate body is buried, his brother members attend the

funeral, in the above dress, and bear the deceased to the church on their shoulders.

The fire institution of this city, established in the year 1760, is deserving of attention. It is under the superintendence of a committee, consisting of two senators and ten citizens, who are changed every two years. When a fire breaks out, one half, at least, of these must assemble in the senate house, in order to issue the necessary directions, which are communicated to the point of action by the body-guard and a detachment of cavalry, who are in attendance for the purpose.

The alarm is in the first instance communicated by the watchmen nearest to the spot, and repeated by the more distant ones until it reaches the nearest steeple, from whence a trumpeter extends it by the sound of his trumpet, hanging out a lantern on the side of danger, as a direction to the firemen. Muskets are now discharged in quick succession from the guard-houses; the drums beat to arms; the church bells ring in quick or slow time, according as the fire rages or diminishes, and generally in less than ten minutes the whole

town is in motion. The firemen hasten to the spot, and a body of troops turn out to assist them and preserve the property of the sufferers from depredation.

The Hamburg firemen are celebrated for their activity and resolution, particularly the body termed *retters*, sixteen of whom are constantly on duty every night in different parts of the town, provided with every requisite apparatus to preserve the lives of such as may be in danger.

The expence of maintaining this establishment, as well as replacing the losses sustained, are borne by the city at large; for this purpose a tax of one-fourth per cent. per annum is imposed on every house, with an additional one-half per cent. in lieu of premium for insurance. The injury is ascertained by sworn appraisers; and if it exceed the amount of the fund levied as above, a new imposition must supply the deficiency; so that, in fact, Hamburg forms one general insurance company, and each house-proprietor is interested in the safety of the whole city. The compensation, however,

extends to no other description of property than houses.

Wednesday, the 16th, having engaged my passage for England, in a schooner called the Packet, to which I had been strongly recommended by some of my friends, and which was to sail this afternoon, I went on board at four o'clock. We were soon under weigh, and proceeding with a fine breeze and fair wind, at seven o'clock on the following morning arrived off Cuxhaven, where we landed our pilot; we then stood out to sea, and after a passage of four days entered the Humber, and landed at Hull on the 20th of June, 1824, making two years and one day from the period of my first embarking for St. Petersburg.

I need scarcely express the rapturous feeling with which I once more hailed my native land, having learnt during my absence more highly to appreciate its vast superiority over the extensive regions I had been traversing. Happy England! land of liberty, of virtue, and of beauty; chief nurse of science; munificent patroness of the arts; boundless in commerce

and opulence; matchless in arms; and supereminent over every other country in national glory! Under the sceptre of a paternal and beloved monarch, and the due administration of thy excellent and glorious constitution, happiness, justice, and hospitality are thy attributes; and in thy favoured clime none of those arbitrary proceedings, which it has been my fate to experience, are ever known to violate the usages of civilized nations, or the sacred rights of hospitality!

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

(A. Preface.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

SIR,

IN giving publicity, in your last number, to that passage of Captain Cochrane's Journal which comments on my design of penetrating into Siberia, I am convinced that you were actuated by a desire of presenting your readers with a feature of novelty.

As, however, I apprehend that this extensive diffusion of sentiments, which hold me up as a Quixotic adventurer, and incapable of gaining correct information, may tend to excite an unfavourable impression, as to the motives which led me to undertake and accomplish so arduous a journey, as well as of the fidelity of my descriptions of it, I feel myself called upon to endeavour to obviate any such tendency, and this the more espe-

cially, as the results of the journey in question are likely to be brought before the public; you will therefore oblige me by inserting in your Magazine the present reply to Captain C.'s observations.

In the first place, however, I beg to remark, that I cannot divine the state of feeling by which Captain C. was actuated while writing the passage in question, which appears to be composed of compliment and sarcasm, mixed up with an affectation of pity, and intimations that whatever I might collect must be of a spurious character.

Great as my affliction may be, Mr. Editor, I beg to assure you, that I neither seek for nor require the pity of any man; and although I by no means reject the sympathy of my friends, yet I feel that if it were not expressed with greater delicacy of sentiment than Captain C. appears to possess, it would be more chilling to my heart than the freezing blasts of a Siberian winter.

Captain C. cannot conceive my object "in going to Siberia." A question of similar import has frequently been put to me, with respect to the motives that induced that gentleman to undertake the same journey; and I must confess, I have been equally at a loss to account for them—a fact which might convince the Russian government that we were

not, as has been intimated, acting in concert. He adds, however, I suppose by way of a reverse explanation, "he may go there as well as any where else, for he will see just as much, but there is so little to be seen by those who have even the use of their eyes, that I cannot divine what interest he can have to attempt it."

Now, as Captain C. admits there is little to be seen, I think my prospects were likely to be nearly as good as his own.

Captain C. then proceeds as follows:— "If his journal, which may be made interesting, be composed of hearsay, as it certainly cannot be of ocular evidence, he will indeed have enough to do to record the information he may receive, and which can only proceed from exiles and criminals, and consequently is not implicitly to be relied on, particularly situated as he is, possessing hardly sufficient knowledge of the Russian language to duly appreciate the value of such hearsay information. His manuscript must become voluminous, and of course too bulky to be sent by private hands; it can only, therefore, be sent by post, where, without doubt, it will be subject to the examination of those whose duty it is to inspect documents of such a nature as this is likely to be, and will be treated according to its merit. In every country, even in

England, we find that foreigners should be careful of what they do, as well as of what they write; if they wish their packets a safe arrival at their destination, they should take care that nothing offensive to the government be inserted, for frequently, as in England, truth is a libel, and the greater the truth the greater the libel. Whether Mr. Holman has already learnt this useful, and to travellers necessary, lesson, time will develope; if so, he may go where he will, and be received by every person in the empire with open arms and warm hearts."

The barrenness of these observations every one will be sensible of; they are, however, so contradictory in their import, that I am at a loss to conceive what we are to understand from them. Captain C. asserts, for instance, that my information must be hearsay, when he has just accused me of not knowing the language in which this hearsay information is to be communicated; surely this is paradoxical! Besides, he adds, that "it can only proceed from exiles and criminals, and consequently is not implicitly to be relied on." Are we to infer that Captain Cochrane's own information was derived from such sources? And if so, what becomes of the veracity of his journal? I can only assure him, that the chief of my gleanings have been collected

from the purest sources—the principal inhabitants of the countries I travelled through, as well as some of the most respectable officers in his Imperial Majesty's service.

Captain Cochrane's speculations concerning the voluminous nature of my notes, and the necessity and difficulty of concealing them from the vigilant eye of the Russian government, are equally futile, and show how improperly he estimates my judgment and experience in travelling, and also the method by which I preserve from such violations the materials I may happen to collect; the latter, it is true, I effect upon a principle which might not have entered into his contemplation—that of depositing them, in a portable and invisible form, within the cavity of my cranium; a plan which, however, did not suggest itself from any sinister motive, but originated from the peculiarity of my situation precluding me from committing them to paper in the ordinary way. Nor am I so young in the art of travelling, as to comment on the proceedings of a despotic government, and then trust my observations to its post. Probably I might have learnt this useful lesson as soon as Captain C. himself, being some years his senior, and having, I conceive, had almost as much experience.

In justice to Captain C., I cannot conclude

without expressing my grateful obligations to him for the information and useful introductions he was kind enough to favour me with.

Windsor, I remain, &c.

15*th Oct.* 1824. JAMES HOLMAN.

(B. p. 20.)

RUSSIAN COINS, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

IN a pound of Russian gold for coining, from the year 1763 to 1801, the alloy was forty-four penny-weights more than in the English; but at that period it was changed to only fourteen more, which continues to be the present standard.

A grevnik was formerly a bar of pure silver, weighing half a pound, which was stamped; and when this bar was cut in two, the parts were called roubles, from the Russian word *rubleas*, to cut: hence the origin of the word rouble.

The gold coins used in Russia, are the imperial, (which weighs a hundred and eighty-eight and a quarter English grains,) the half imperial, and the ducat.

The silver coins are, the rouble, which is called the silver rouble, because it now has the value of four roubles in paper money; a

small silver coin, called the rouble, because it has that value in paper money; and the smaller coins are as follow:--the eighty-copeck piece, the forty-copeck piece, and twenty-copeck piece; a hundred copecks make a rouble of paper money, the value of which rouble, during my residence in Russia, fluctuated, according to the exchange, from nine and a half to ten and a half.

GENERAL WEIGHTS OF RUSSIA.

		British lbs. and decimals.
The scruple weighs		,0003
10 scruples make	1 grain	,003
3 grains	1 zolotnick	,009
3 zolotnicks	1 lote	,028
32 lotes	1 bercheroot, or lbs. Russ	,901
40 bercheroots	1 poood	36,071
10 poods	1 berkovetz	360,716

MEASURES OF RUSSIA IN GENERAL.

		Winchester bushels and decimals.
The garnitza		,084
8 garnitzas make	1 chetverik	,670
2 chetveriks	1 payok	1,340
2 payoks	1 osmin	2,681
2 osmins	1 chetvert	5,362
10 chetverts	1 coul	53,62

The chetvert is not every where of the same capacity. It is much larger at Moscow; at Novogorod it contains fifty per cent. more than at Archangel and St. Petersburg; and in the government of Pleskoff is of still greater dimensions.

The cool of coarse meal should weigh within half a pound of three cwt. British, or nine poods, twelve pounds Russ.

The cool of wheat, in bad years, weighs eight, in common years nine, and, after a favourable harvest, ten poods.

LIQUIDS OF RUSSIA IN GENERAL.

	Winchester gallons and decimals.
The tzarkas	,042
10 tzarkas make 1 osmouki, or kroushka	,418
2 osmoukis 1 cheverki . .	,837
4 cheverkis 1 vedro . . .	3,350
3 vedros 1 anker . . .	10,050
40 vedros, or 13⅓ ankers, make 1 sorokovai, or botshka	134,030

LONG MEASURE OF RUSSIA.

	English feet and decimals.
The vertshok	,145
16 vertshoks make one arshine . .	2,333

		English feet and decimals.
3 Arshines	make one sajene . .	7,000
500 Sajenes	. . one verst . .	3,500,000
3 Versts	. . two miles Englsh.	

LAND MEASURE.

The dessetine is equal to 2 acres, 3 roods, 17 5-7th poles of British standard measure.

(C. p. 71.)

LETTERS FROM MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS TO THE QUEEN MOTHER OF FRANCE.

" *From her Prison.*

" MADAM,

" I HAVE availed myself of the opportunity of the bearer to write to the king, your son, who will tell you every particular; for I am so closely watched, that I have not a moment's freedom, excepting when they dine, or when they sleep; even then their daughters are near me; the bearer will, however, inform you of all, and I beg that you will give him

credit, and reward him accordingly. I trust that you will both pity me. I am sure that, if you do not release me by force, I shall never get from this place; and if you will send forces, all Scotland will revolt against Murray and Morton, if they see that the business is taken up seriously. Pray credit the bearer; and may God keep me in your good grace. I write from my prison the first of May.

" Your very humble, and
obedient daughter,

" MARIE."

" *May 28th*, 1568, *at Carlisle.*

" MARIA STUART, Queen of Scotland, begs the queen to place confidence in Mr. Flamis, her cousin.

" *To the Queen of France,*
my mother-in-law."

LETTER FROM QUEEN ELIZABETH TO THE QUEEN-MOTHER OF FRANCE.

"MADAM,

"HAVING received your letter by Mr. Paquier, who informed me of your honourable intentions, and of my brother's, the king, towards our desolated cousin, the Queen of Scotland, I am rejoiced to hear that a prince has taken to heart the wrongs of another. I hate such transformations—masters becoming servants, and servants masters. Be assured, madam, that my disposition obliges me to wish that honour and success might attend him; the example is too horrid for neighbouring countries to behold, or princes to hear; such evil persons resemble the influence of a malign planet, which missing one head falls upon another. Not that I have any doubt that the king, my brother, or any other prince, may have more reason to punish bad subjects than I have reason to be revenged of mine, when they are as faithful to me as I can expect. Notwithstanding I never fail to condole with those princes who have reason to repent of them. The troubles of the king made me so angry, that I believe Mr. Paquier thought that I was born in France; being in a passion, I

spoke very quickly. I beg, madam, that if there be at this time any favour that I may be able to grant, let me know, and believe my good friendship in your cause. I will not cease to pray that the Creator may preserve the king and yourself from bad subjects, and keep you both in his holy care.

" I am, in haste,

" Your servant and cousin.

" *From Hampton Court, October* 16*th.*

" *Addressed to Madam, my sister, the Queen Mother of his most Christian Majesty.*"

The prayer-book of the unfortunate Mary, is bound in purple velvet; the leaves are of a rich vellum, of a large 8vo. size; it is ten inches long, seven broad, and an inch and a half thick. The sheets are highly ornamented with painting and gold, and on the right-hand page richly illuminated with pictures of saints, with Saxo-Latin inscriptions under them. In various parts were originally blank spaces that have been filled up with observations and lines of poetry in French, and in the queen's own hand-writing and with

her signature; of some of which the following are translations.

On the first page—

"This belongs to me, Mary."

Subsequently—

Sad fate! that renders life as drear,
As useless, e'en as *death* could be,
Whilst all, to add to my despair,
Seems in its nature chang'd towards me.

No longer, as in times of old,
The wings of fame are spread
With soaring flight, impartial, bold—
Those times, alas! are fled.

Her pleasures now are all confin'd,
And all her favours shine
On those whom fortune (frail and blind)
Regards with smile benign.

Dull hours, which guided by my fate,
In sad succession flow,
The glorious sun, in all his state,
Seems but to mock my woe.

The letters are bound in one volume, and comprise one from Henry the Seventh of England to Charles the Eighth of France, requesting him to liberate some of his subjects, who were imprisoned at Dieppe. Others from Henry the Eighth, Mary, Elizabeth, James the First, and Anne.

In another book are contained the following:—

A letter from James Stuart, sent to his Christian Majesty, to present his duty to him, and to inform him of the state of affairs of the King of Scotland, and asserting, that the troubles of France prevented his doing so before.

A letter from James Stuart to the Queen of France, upon the good qualities of his master, the young King of Scotland, and begging her to assist in his affairs.—April 20th, 1568.

A letter from my Lord Fleming to the King, informing him that the Earl of Murray, Regent of Scotland, threatens to besiege the Castle of Dumbarton; being unwilling to give it up

he asks the king to assist him with men and ammunition.

Letter from the principal lords of Scotland to the king of France, praying for the deliverance of their queen, and that he will assist them with men, money, and ammunition, to reinstate her in her dominions, and to chastise the traitors.

Letter from the lords to the queen, concerning the detention of their queen in England, desiring her to obtain her deliverance, and to send assistance to enable them to chastise the rebels.

Letters of the Earl of Essex to his most Christian Majesty.

(D. p. 119.)

RULES APPOINTED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE FOR THE TOWN PRISON OF ST. PETERSBURG.

1. From the 1st of March to the 1st of November, the prisoners are to rise on the ringing of the bell, at five o'clock in the morning; and from the 1st of November to the 1st

of March, they are to rise at six o'clock in the morning.

2. When risen, every prisoner is to wash and comb himself, for which one half hour is allowed.

3. The following half-hour they are to be engaged in the morning prayers; and in each ward, one of the prisoners is to read aloud a chapter in the New Testament, and one psalm.

4. After their morning devotions they are to receive their breakfast, consisting of rye bread and salt.

5. After breakfast those prisoners who are noted for good conduct, and all the debtors, are allowed to walk one half hour in the prison yard, under the responsibility of the inspector of the prison.

6. The prisoners from every ward are not to be permitted to walk at the same time, but only those of one or two at once; during which time no strangers are to be admitted. The overseers are in the mean time to order all the windows to be opened, and they are also to see this done on every convenient opportunity.

7. On the ringing of the bell three times, at seven o'clock in the morning, each member is to go to his work, in the room he has been appointed to by a member of the prison labour committee.

8. The hours for their work are to be from seven to twelve in the morning; and from two to seven in the afternoon. During the working hours the prisoners are to be silent and obedient. If any prisoner breaks this rule, the master, or overseer, is immediately to inform the inspector of the prison, who is to order the wardsman, (one of the prisoners elected by themselves) to put the transgressor on bread and water for that day; for a second offence, or for breaking any other of the established rules, the prisoner is to be punished by such means as the police of the prison enforces.

9. Confined debtors are not compelled to work, but they are to keep silence, and conduct themselves orderly during the time the other prisoners are at their work, and also when they are hearing read sacred or instructive tracts.

10. If any prisoner, in defiance of these rules, continues his disorderly conduct for two or three days, he is then to be fined the amount of his daily labour, which fine is to be given to his companions in the same working room, who are noticed for attention and good conduct.

11. At mid-day, on the ringing of the prison bell four times, all the prisoners are to leave their working rooms and assemble for dinner in their respective wards.

12. After dinner, viz. from one till two o'clock, the prisoners are allowed to rest from

work, and are to be engaged in reading, or hearing read, sacred writings or tracts.

13. Every prisoner is obliged to do that work to which he is appointed by one of the members of the labour committee, or with his permission, by one of the masters engaged for directing the prisoners in the different working rooms.

14. If any prisoner, during work, is impertinent to the overseer, or does him, or the master of the working room, any injury, then, besides the punishment to be inflicted on such occasions, given in the eighth rule, immediate information of such offence is to be given to the inspector of the prison, or, in his absence, to his assistant, who must instantly, and on the spot, examine the offence, and report the same, without delay, to one of the members of the prison committee, who may first visit the prison; and such member, on being convinced of the justice of the complaint, is to order the offender to be punished according to the nature of his crime; by fining him a whole week's wages, or ordering him to be put in solitary confinement.

15. At seven o'clock in the evening, on the ringing of the prison bell, the work for the day is finished. The master, with the overseer of each working room, is to take from every prisoner the different working tools given out

to them in the morning, and in the presence of the governor, or his assistant, to lock them up in a secure appointed place.

16. From seven to half past seven in the evening, the prisoners are to be permitted to walk in summer in the prison yard, and in winter in the passage of the prison, under the responsibility of the inspector, according to the fifth and sixth rules. From half past seven till eight, a prisoner in each ward is to read a chapter in the New Testament, as ordered by one of the members of the committee.

17. At eight o'clock, on the ringing of the bell four times, the prisoners are to go to supper, each in his own ward.

18. After supper, for which half an hour is allowed, they are to say their evening prayers, and go to bed at nine o'clock.

19. These rules are also for those who are committed for high crimes, with this exception, that they always remain in their respective wards, and are never to be employed in the working rooms; and, that they may not be altogether idle, they are to be employed in making lint.

20. Juvenile prisoners are to be allowed to walk in the prison yard in the morning from seven till eight o'clock, and in the evening from six to seven, in order that they may be kept apart from the other prisoners.

21 Spirituous liquors, and other articles of extravagance and superfluity, which are not proper to be allowed a man under confinement; all sorts of gaming, singing boisterous songs, smoking tobacco, and the like, are strictly forbidden. To any prisoner who breaks this rule the punishment is to be exemplary.

22. On the morning of the Sabbath day, and other holidays, the prisoners are to attend in the prison chapel, where they are to observe perfect silence and decorum, and are to hear the prayers, and a sermon from the prison chaplain. During the remainder of such days they are to be employed in hearing spiritual advice from their chaplain, and a member of the committee.

(Signed) WM. HYNAM,

Director of the Prison Select Committee.

ACCOUNT OF THE WORK DONE BY THE PRISONERS DURING THE YEAR 1821.

Lint of the first, second, and third qualities	14,468¾	Pounds.
Carpets and horse-cloths . .	990	Square feet.

Russian Testaments bound . . .	2000 vols.	
German do. do.	200	
Folio account books in Morocco for the Imperial Bank	132	
Folios, quartos, &c. for private persons	500	
	2,832	Books bound.
Tracts	40,000	
Ruled for account and music books	58,128	sheets.
Mineral and other small cases	6,547	
Boxes for hats, watches, needles, inkstands, &c. . .	228	
Ladies' dressing and work-boxes, work-baskets, &c. .	207	
Portfolios, (red, green, and black)	225	
Transparent shades for fire-place and candles . . .	36	
Trunks and portmanteaus .	16	

Account of the number of male prisoners employed in the town prison, St. Petersburg, from January 1821 to January 1822, taking

for a daily medium 180, the greatest number at any time not being more than 300, and never less at any time than 150: namely,

	Prisoners.
Making lint	80
Book-binding	13
Sundry leather and paper work	7
Carpet and horse-cloth making	6
Ruling account and music books	4
Making pasteboard	2
	112

Not employed in the working rooms.

Wardsmen	13
Assistant do.	16
Sweeping and cleaning the prison	4
Old, sick, and not fit for work	35
	180

The work done by the prisoners in the town prison during the year 1821 amounted to 18,000 roubles, of which they received 3214 roubles for their labour.

During the year 1821 the prison committee purchased for the use of the prisoners, 225 shirts, 252 pair of linen drawers, and 24 dozen of linen towels.

Account of the prisoners, male and female, confined during the year 1821, in the town prison, St. Petersburg.

	Male.	Female.
Remained in confinement January 1st, 1821, . . .	155	28
Committed during the year .	1,155	149
Discharged during the year .	1,116	154
Remained in confinement January 1st, 1822 . . .	194	23

Debtors not included in the above number.

Remained in confinement January 1st, 1821 . . .	21	6
Confined during the year. .	248	20
Released through the influence of the prison committee. .	221	17
Released by charitable donations from the 10th July, 1821, to the 1st January, 1822, for debts amounting to 8,368 roubles, 60 copecks . .	32	5
Remained in confinement 1st January, 1822 . . .	16	4
Sick admitted into the prison hospital	162	52
Died during the year . .	5	—

	Persons.
Confessed to the chaplain, and received the sacrament of both sexes . .	230
Confessed, without being admitted to the sacrament	34

	Roubles.	Copecks.
From the 1st of January to the 31st December, 1821, was received at the prison for the sole use of the prisoners, in private charities .	17,441	
In bread and provisions . .	10,000	
	27,441	

Donations for the prison chapel .	937	42
During the year 1822, work of different description was made by the prisoners to the amount of .	24,089	96
Of which they received for their labour	5,158	27

(E. p. 151.)

THE STCHOT.

THE stchot consists of a small frame resembling one side of a backgammon board, the space comprised within which is filled up with twelve wire cross-bars, on which are strung a number of bone, wooden, or glass beads, there being nine on each bar. The two lowest bars are at a greater distance from the others, and intended for the calculation of copecks, the other ten for roubles.

The best way of explaining the use of the instrument, will be to suppose some cases. It may be premised, that before commencing, all the beads are to be placed on the right hand side of the bars; the score is then a blank.

If you are calculating copecks, and wish to put on any given number, say ninety-nine, move to the left hand extremity of the wire nine beads from the lowest bar which corresponds with units, and nine on the second bar, which corresponds with tens; and you have ninety-nine noted down. Another copeck would make one rouble, in which case you move one bead forward along the unit or lowest line of the rouble bars, throwing back the whole of the copecks.

Any quantity of roubles may be noted on the same principle. If you wish to add twenty-five to the above single rouble, move five more beads to the left, on the unit bar, and two on the tens, or second line=twenty-six. Suppose four thousand five hundred and seven are now to be added to this last product, you move forward four beads on the fourth rouble bar, five on the third, and seven on the first; but as you have already six on the latter, and only three remaining, this appears impossible. In this case, instead of attempting an addition to the units, place one on the tens, and move back from the units as many as, added to the seven, would make ten—namely, three; three will then remain on the unit line, and the whole sum will stand four thousand five hundred and thirty-three.

In this way, those who are accustomed to it will add any sum with the greatest rapidity.

(F. p. 159.)

THE following is a copy of the passport, as given in the Memoirs of Bruce, who served under Peter the Great.

" We do certify by these presents, that the

bearer hereof hath always behaved himself, and lived among us, as became a good Christian, professing the Greek religion; and although he may have committed sins, he hath confessed the same, whereupon he hath received absolution, and taken the communion for the remission of his sins. That he hath honoured God and his saints; that he hath not neglected his prayers, and hath fasted on the hours and days appointed by the church; that he hath always behaved himself towards me, who am his confessor, in such a manner, that I have no reason to complain of him, or to deny him the absolution of his sins. In witness whereof we have given him these testimonials, to the end that St. Peter, upon sight of them, may not deny him the opening of the gates to eternal bliss."

Richardson says, in a letter to a friend:—

"I mentioned to you, that after reciting the hymn, previous to the last embrace, a priest put a scroll of paper into the hand of the deceased. This has sometimes been ludicrously represented as a passport to be delivered to St. Peter. The following, however, has been given me by the Rev. Dr. King, author of an Account of the Rites and

Ceremonies of the Greek Church, as an exact translation of the scroll above-mentioned, and shews the injustice of that account.

"'The Prayer, Hope, and Declaration of a Christian Soul in the Faith.

"'Every God-glorifying, orthodox Christian, having lived and honoured this hope, declares the following: and when he is dead, whoever is willing, may piously put this declaration into the hand of the deceased, when in the coffin.

"'All-creative, Omnipotent God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, in three Persons, but one Godhead, substance, and essence, incessantly praised by all creatures, who, by thy holy will, foreknowledge, immeasurable goodness, and inexpressible wisdom, didst create all things visible in the world; thou didst create also me thy servant, to glorify me, O Lord, my God! to sing thy holy name, gratefully to thank thee for all thy mercies, and to endeavour, by all virtues, to attain thy everlasting kingdom. But, O Divine Trinity! I have sinned against thee, have offended thy holiness, have broken thy commandments, and have not preserved, as I ought, thy image and likeness existing within me. I have defiled my soul and body by all

manner of sins, and by wicked actions have moved thee to wrath. But though I have been dazzled with the vanities of this world, yet, O Lord, I have not cast myself wholly from thee, my Creator, my life, my joy, my salvation and hope. And now my life, limited by thy power, I willingly resign. My soul separates itself from my corruptible body, goes into immortality; and, if it seem good unto thee, shall with this body rise again, which I hope for from thy goodness and mercy, according to the faith of our holy religion, and because thou didst suffer for our salvation. Yet I am terrified with fear, lest the torments of the wicked be inflicted upon me, for the sins which I have committed against thee. Wherefore, O Immortal King, and my God! with this my last breath I pray unto thee, that thou wouldst forgive all the sins I have committed from my youth up to this time; for thou art my God and my Creator; I believe in thee; I hope in thee; by thy righteous judgment save me, O Lord! and vouchsafe unto me thy kingdom. Thou, who for us men became Jesus Christ, to deliver us from sin; by thy power I was born, and brought up in the wisdom of the only holy eastern church. And I pray thee, O Lord, consider not my sins; but grant me absolution in presence of the immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Free from doubt, I come

unto thee, O God; and at the separation of my soul into all space from the body, receive, O Lord, my spirit into thy hands, and, according to thy mercy, revive me in the evangelic beatitude, for ever and ever. Amen.'"

The following is extracted from the same author, and may be supposed to express the sentiments of the deceased. It is spoken by the chief-priest, before the service concludes.

"Brethren, friends, kinsmen, and acquaintance! view me now, and lament. It was but yesterday that we conversed together; for the fearful hour of death hath surprised me. Come here, all who tenderly loved or esteemed me, and, with a last embrace, pronounce the last farewell. No longer shall I sojourn among you: no longer bear a part in your discourse; I go to the Judge who hath no respect of persons.

"The master and the servant, the sovereign and the subject, the rich and the poor, are here upon a level; for according to their deeds shall they be glorified or put to shame; therefore let me entreat and beseech you all, intercede with Jesus, who is God, that I may not receive the punishment due to my guilt, but that he may establish me in the light of life."

(G. p. 181.)—*Register of the Thermometer, Barometer, and Weather, at St. Petersburg, from Oct. 3, 1822, to Jan. 31, 1823, (N. S.)*

*** P denotes *plus*, M *minus*.

	MORNING.		NOON.		EVENING.		
1822.	Reaum. Therm.	Barom.	Reaum. Therm.	Barom.	Reaum. Therm.	Barom.	STATE OF THE WEATHER.
Oct. 3	p 4.0		p 6.5		p 4.7		
.. 4	p 3.8		p 8.0		p 3.5		
.. 5	p 1.5		p 8.2		p 5.6		
.. 6	p 2.3		p 5.5		p 3.9		
.. 7	p 0.0		p 7.6		p 4.0		
.. 8	p 0.0		p 5.0		p 3.7		
.. 9	p 2.5		p 6.5		p 6.8		
..10	p 6.2		p 9.5		p 7.2		
..11	p 5.2		p 8.8		p 6.5		
..12	p 5.0		p 8.2		p 6.0		
..13	p 5.0		p 8.2		p 6.5		
..14	p 5.0		p 6.8		p 7.3		
..15	p 5.7		p 8.3		p 5.5		
..16	p 4.7		p 7.3		p 5.0		
..17	p 3.8		p 6.3		p 5.2		
..18	p 4.3		p 7.4		p 6.0		
..19	p 4.8		p 7.1		p 7.6		
..20	p 7.0		p 5.8		p 5.6		
..21	p 5.0		p 7.5		p 7.0		
..22	p 4.8		p 9.0		p 5.3		
..23	p 6.5		p 9.8		p 7.3		
..24	p 4.0		p 5.7		p 2.6		
..25	p 1.0		p 3.7		m0.6		
..26	m2.6		p 1.0		m1.0		
..27	m0.0		p 2.6		p 2.6		
..28	p 2.5		p 4.5		p 4.6		
..29	p 3.0		p 1.9		m1.2		
..30	p 4.5		p 0.6		m2.3		
..31	m5.5		m0.0		m0.9		

1822.	MORNING. Reaum. Therm.	MORNING. Barom	NOON. Reaum. Therm.	NOON. Barom.	EVENING. Reaum. Therm.	EVENING. Barom.	STATE OF THE WEATHER.
Nov.1	m1.8		p 1.1		m0.2		
.. 2	p 0.2		p 4.0		p 4.0		
.. 3	p 3.0		p 5.5		p 5.6		
.. 4	p 5.2		p 6.2		p 5.6		
.. 5	p 4.5		p 5.5		p 4.7		
.. 6	p 4.0		p 4.5		p 3.0		
.. 7	p 2.5		p 2.4		p 1.5		
.. 8	p 0.1		m0.0		m0.4		
.. 9	m5.0		m3.2		m3.5		
..10	m7.0		m2.7		m4.6		
..11	m6.0		m2.2		m1.6		
..12	m1.5		p 1.6		p 1.0		
..13	m0.0		m0.2		m3.0		
..14	m6.5		m1.6		m4.8		
..15	m8.2		m2.8		p 4.0		
..16	p 4.0		p 1.5		p 2.2		
..17	p 1.8		p 2.8		p 1.8		
..18	p 2.6		p 3.2		p 1.2		
..19	m1.2		p 0.8		p 0.0		
..20	p 1.5		p 2.8		p 3.5		
..21	p 2.5	28.05	p 3.5	28.06	p 3.9	28.03	Dull and rainy.
..22	p 3.5	27.96	p 3.6	27.90	p 3.3	27.83	Foggy.
..23	p 3.0	27.80	p 3.7	27.84	p 3.9	27.73	Rain, with a little sunshine.
..24	p 4.5	27.60	p 4.3	27.63	p 2.2	27.79	Cloudy, with rain.
..25	p 3.4	27.73	p 3.3	27.67	m0.8	27.86	Rain, with snow at times.
..26	m4.2	28.10	m2.6	28.27	m5.3	28.39	Cloudy, but fine in the evening.
..27	m5.8	28.46	m4.0	28.46	m4.2	28.43	Very dull.
..28	m6.1	28.39	m6.0	28.41	m6.1	28.30	Ditto.
..29	m4.5	28.12	m2.3	28.06	m0.8	27.95	Great fall of snow.
..30	p 1.0	27.89	p 2.5	27.93	p 1.5	28.01	Very dull.

1822.	MORNING. Reaum. Therm.	MORNING. Barom.	NOON. Reaum. Therm.	NOON. Barom.	EVENING. Reaum. Therm.	EVENING. Barom.	STATE OF THE WEATHER.
Dec. 1	p 1.1	27.98	p 0.3	27.88	p 0.8	27.89	Snowy.
.. 2	p 1.5	27.79	p 1.4	28.04	p 0.7	28.15	Very dull.
.. 3	m1.4	28.20	m8.0	28.16	m0.4	28.14	Foggy and dull.
.. 4	p 0.0	28.14	p 1.0	28.12	p 1.0	27.99	Ditto, with snow.
.. 5	p 1.8	28.03	p 2.2	28.14	p 0.6	28.17	Ditto.
.. 6	p 0.9	28.03	p 2.4	28.06	p 1.8	28.10	Ditto.
.. 7	p 2.2	28.13	p 1.2	28.17	p 0.2	28.25	Very foggy, with rain.
.. 8	p 0.4	28.31	p 1.3	28.38	p 1.7	28.46	Cloudy, with snow.
.. 9	p 1.6	28.52	p 2.4	28.58	p 2.5	28.59	Ditto.
.. 10	p 1.6	28.57	p 1.5	28.55	p 1.6	28.51	Very dull.
.. 11	p 0.2	28.47	p 0.5	28.46	p 1.0	28.48	Ditto, with snow.
.. 12	p 0.3	28.50	p 0.5	28.50	p 0.3	28.54	Ditto.
.. 13	p 0.8	28.42	p 1.0	28.40	p 0.8	28.41	Ditto.
.. 14	m0.4	28.41	p 0.4	28.46	m0.0	28.49	Ditto.
.. 15	m0.2	28.56	m3.0	28.69	m2.0	28.69	Ditto.
.. 16	m4.5	28.71	m2.7	28.77	m3.2	28.82	Ditto.
.. 17	m3.6	28.81	m3.3	28.74	m4.5	28.60	Cloudy, with snow.
.. 18	m5.5	28.45	m3.8	28.50	m3.2	28.59	Ditto.
.. 19	m2.3	28.64	m1.5	28.64	m1.5	28.33	Very dull.
.. 20	m1.0	28.36	p 0.5	28.28	m1.2	28.17	Ditto.
.. 21	m2.7	28.06	m4.2	28.12	m8.0	28.19	Cloudy, but fine in the evening.
.. 22	m6.8	28.23	m5.7	28.19	m4.0	28.00	Fine morning, but snow in the evening.
.. 23	m4.0	27.74	m4.5	27.90	m4.2	28.16	Dull.
.. 24	m11.8	28.28	m9.7	28.25	m6.4	28.20	Ditto.
.. 25	m5.8	28.37	m5.4	28.50	m10.0	28.64	Fine and clear, with a little snow.
.. 26	m3.6	28.43	m2.1	28.31	m2.5	28.43	Snowy.
.. 27	m1.8	28.49	p 1.7	27.51	m2.0	28.64	Very dull.
.. 28	m4.2	28.70	m3.8	28.74	m4.6	28.78	Ditto, with snow.
.. 29	m2.8	28.75	m2.3	28.74	m1.6	28.75	Ditto.
.. 30	m3.8	28.73	m3.0	28.75	m2.7	28.78	Very foggy.
.. 31	m1.8	28.81	m1.0	28.84	m2.0	28.88	Dull.

1833.	MORNING. Reaum. Therm.	MORNING. Barom.	NOON. Reaum. Therm.	NOON. Barom.	EVENING. Reaum. Therm.	EVENING. Barom.	STATE OF THE WEATHER.
Jan. 1	m2.1	28.88	m2.8	28.89	m5.0	28.91	Dull, with snow.
.. 2	m6.2	28.9	m6.5	28.94	m9.0	28.98	Ditto.
.. 3	m10.0	29.07	m9.2	29.14	m9.0	29.15	Ditto.
.. 4	m8.0	29.03	m7.9	29.	m9.5	29.00	Ditto.
.. 5	m11.5	29.09	m10.0	29.0:	m8.1	29.09	Ditto.
.. 6	m5.2	2 .11	m4.1	2 .10	m4.5	29.03	Ditto.
.. 7	m5.2	28.92	m5.5	28.?8	m6.3	28.82	Ditto.
.. 8	m3.5	28.67	m5.0	28.65	m3.7	28.51	Ditto.
.. 9	m3.5	28.39	m2.0	28.19	m5.0	28.18	Ditto.
..10	m6.2	28.20	m5.6	8.2	m6.7	28.40	Cloudy, with snow.
..11	m12.0	28.47	m13.3	28.48	m12.8	28.36	Clear and cloudy alternately.
..12	m9.8	28.02	m5.4	28.07	m3.6	27.97	Cloudy.
..13	m2.2	27.93	m3.1	27.97	m4.5	28.06	Ditto, with snow.
..14	m6.5	28.10	m10.2	28.17	m13.5	28.25	Dull.
..15	m16.0	28.30	m15.8	28.35	m21.0	28.39	Very fine.
..16	m22.3	28.36	m19.0	28.33	m19.3	28.30	Dull morning, but fine evening.
..17	m14.5	28.27	m13.5	28.29	m17.0	28.25	Ditto.
..18	m17.0	28.14	m15.2	28.07	m13.2	28.01	Ditto.
..19	m11.3	28.01	m11.5	28.07	m15.4	28.20	Cloudy, with snow.
..20	m18.0	28.28	m15.5	28.35	m17.5	28.40	Fine clear day.
..21	m13.0	28.46	m10.6	28.51	m12.0	28.53	Very dull.
..22	m15.0	28.47	m14.5	28.43	m12.7	28.35	Very fine at noon.
..23	m9.4	28.23	m6.9	28.19	m7.0	28.19	Dull, with snow.
..24	m6.6	28.24	m6.6	28.30	m11.0	28.28	Very cloudy.
..25	m8.0	28.19	m6.1	28.15	m8.5	28.05	Fine and cloudy alternately.
..26	m6.6	27.93	m5.5	27.93	m7.0	27.99	Very cloudy, with high wind and snow.
..27	m14.5	28.03	m12.6	28.08	m15.5	28.14	Very clear.
..28	m15.5	28.19	m14.0	28.26	m16.5	28.34	Ditto.
..29	m15.5	28.37	m11.5	28.38	m14.5	28.39	Foggy and clear alternately.
..30	m14.5	28.35	m13.0	28.27	m12.0	28.13	Ditto.
..31	m10.0	28.02	m9.7	27.88	m10.0	27.77	Ditto.

(H. p. 270.)

" In the name of the Emperor and King.

" This day, the 24th of September, 1812, the military commission appointed in Moscow, by order of his majesty the emperor and king, composed of M——, M——

General Count Lauer, High Provost of the Army,
General Baron Michael, Commander of the First Regiment of the Foot Grenadier Guards,
General Baron Saunier, High Provost of the First Corps of the Army,
General Baron Bodelin, Commander of the Grenadiers of the Guards,
Chevalier Thery, Adjutant-Commander of the Imperial Quarters,
Jeanier, Chief of the Squadron of the Gend'armerie d'Elite,
General Count Monthion, executing the office of the Imperial Solicitor, and
Mr. Weber, Chief of the Squadron, that of Reporter,

All appointed by his highness the Prince of Neufchatel, Major-General of the Grand Army,

and assisted by St. Jouve de Guibert, under Officer of the Gendarmes, appointed as Registrar, by the Reporter, in order to discover and examine the authors of the fire which broke out in the different quarters of the city of Moscow, on the fourteenth and fifteenth days of this month, and which continued during the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth.

" The commission, summoned by order of the president, having assembled at the Palace of Dolgorooky, began by reading the verbal process of enquiry, or inquest, and other papers for and against the accused. This being finished, the president gave orders to the guard to bring forward the persons accused, twenty-six in number, who entered without compulsion, free and unbound.

" After having informed the accused of what was laid to their charge, and heard separately the declarations and depositions of the witnesses, as well as the defence of the persons accused, who had been seized in the act of setting fire to different houses; and the commission having also caused to be produced the various means used by the incendiaries, for instance, matches, squibs, phosphorus, sulphur, and other combustible substances found upon them, or by them put purposely into several houses. The commission also discovered, that it was already three months since the Russian government,

(who doubtless foresaw the danger of the war in which it was engaged, and the impossibility of preventing the French army from entering Moscow,) had purposed to employ in its defence the extraordinary means of fire and destruction, deprecated by all civilized nations: in consequence of which they had accepted the proposals of a certain Dr. Schmitt, (said to be an Englishman, but who passed for a German,) a great mechanician, who being invited into Russia, arrived in the beginning of the month of May last, and after having had several conferences with the principal authorities, went to reside at the estate, called the Chateau of Voronzoff, situated about six versts from the city, on the road leading to Kalouga; that a detachment of one hundred and sixty infantry, and twelve dragoons, remained at that chateau to conceal the mysterious operations of Schmitt, and to prevent the inquisitive from approaching; that it is generally known that he constructed a balloon of a considerable size, which it was pretended would contain a machine for extermination, and which, he assured them, could be directed at pleasure.

" That about a fortnight before the French army entered Moscow, seven large barrels of gunpowder, were sent to Voronzoff, with artificers, who remained attached to Dr. Schmitt, and were employed under his direction.

"That it is proved that this preparation for the construction of a large balloon, was only a contrivance to amuse the minds of the people; and that they were solely employed in the chateau making fire-works, and in the compotion of other combustible engines.

"That it is certain that all the expences incurred in the construction of the balloon, and of the said engines, were furnished by the Russian government.

"That the Count Rostopchin, military governor of Moscow, being certain after the battle of Mojaisk, of the immediate approach of the French army, resolved upon a plan of setting fire to the capital by all the means that lay in his power.

"That he issued a proclamation to the inhabitants, in which was contained the following passage,—'Arm yourselves with whatever you can, but principally with pitchforks, which are better suited against Frenchmen, as they are no heavier than a bundle of straw; if we cannot conquer them, we shall burn them in Moscow, if they dare enter it.'

"That in order to ensure his design, the Governor Rostopchin, before his departure, ordered the prisoners of the Ostrog and the Yam, to be thrown open, where the malefactors were confined: that about eight hundred criminals were thus set at liberty, the price of

which was to set fire to the city four and twenty hours after the arrival of the French army.

"That several Russian officers, both civil and military, as also agents of the police, received secret orders to remain disguised in Moscow, to direct the incendiaries, and to give the signal for the conflagration.

"That it is notorious that in order to prevent assistance being given against fire, the governor had issued orders on the morning of the fourteenth instant, to send away all the fire-engines from the twenty-four quarters of the city, with the carriages, grapples, buckets, and utensils, and also the horses belonging to them.

"That all the different species of inflammable preparations, and particularly the little cases of phosphorus, wrapt in linen, dipt in sulphur, and deposited or thrown into different houses, very evidently proves that the conflagration was a preconcerted plan.

"That the matches and squibs found in the hands of several Russians, both military and civil, at the time of their arrest, demonstrated, without any further doubt, the real authors of the fire, some of whom, being found in the act, were, by an impulse of voluntary indignation, shot by the French patroles, or killed by the inhabitants.

" The reporter then gave in his report and conclusions; the accused having declared that they had nothing more in their defence.

" The president then asked the members of the commission, if they had any remarks to make, and having received a negative answer, before giving any opinion, he ordered the accused to withdraw; the counsel deliberating in private, only in the presence of the imperial solicitor.

" The president proposed, with regard to the accused, separately, according to their respective denominations, to ask the following question.

1. Igaatieff Peters, aged 32, gentleman, born in Moscow, Lieutenant of the First Regiment of Foot Cavalry of Moscow.
2. Baroff Streton, aged 29, born at Nicholsk, miniature-painter.
3. Karlam Alexis, aged 40, born at Vesen, police soldier in Moscow.
4. Thomas John Christopher, aged 33, merchant's clerk, born at Moscow.
5. Stigniviez Peters, aged 30, born at Moscow, painter.
6. Ogakomoff Elios, aged 18, born at Simbirsk, blacksmith.
7. Maximus John, aged 70, born at Kossloff, footman to Prince Simbersky.

8. Abraham Simeon, aged —, born at ——.
9. Sergin Fedoroff, aged 48, born at Moscow, tailor.
10. Levontoff Nicholas, aged 33, born at Moscow, painter.
11. Sebastianoff John Ivanoff, aged 67, beadle to St. Philip's church, at Moscow.
12. Wassileff Nicholas, aged 56, born at Moscow, blacksmith.
13. Sergin Feodor, aged 43, born at Moscow, police soldier in Moscow.
14. Wassily Ermoloff, aged 49, born at Obonchoff, workman.
15. Beliheroff Nicholas, aged 59, born at Moscow, footman.
16. Ivanoff Simeon, aged 18, born at Mojaisk, upholsterer.
17. Zesfeperoff Andre, aged 47, born at Vologda, police soldier.
18. Yetitnoff Feodor, aged 55, born at Simbirsk, police soldier.
19. Motiez Lucian, aged 40, born at Grodno, police soldier.
20. Seachoff Servil, aged 54, born at——.
21. Abraham Gabrieloff, aged 56, born at Serpoohoff, police soldier.
22. Nikifor Samoetoff, aged 51, born at Rawazili, police soldier.
23. Midzoff Feodor, aged 33, in the ninth regiment of Russian infantry.

24. Logonoff Stephen, aged 30, born at Karaschiloff, footman.
25. Schestopianoff, aged —, born at ——.
26. Biglow Yabril, aged 52, born at Ruben, police solider in Moscow.

"Are they guilty of having set fire to houses in Moscow, with the design of burning the city?

"The suffrage began by the lower ranks.

"The president having given in his opinion, the commission declared unanimously that the first ten individuals were guilty.

"Hereupon the imperial solicitor entered his suit with regard to the infliction of the punishment.

"The president having collected the votes, the commission, in answer to the said suit, condemned unanimously the ten aforementioned individuals to suffer death. And with regard to the remaining sixteen, the commission considered there was not sufficient evidence to convict them, therefore sentenced them, for the present, to be confined in the prisons of Moscow, to prevent their doing further mischief; also gave orders to print, and distribute through the city, one thousand hand-bills; to read the sentence to the condemned; and, lastly, to have it executed in its full extent within twenty-four hours.

"Done, agreed, and adjudged, at a public meeting the day, month, and year above mentioned.

(Signed) GENERAL COUNT LAUER,
GENERAL BARON MICHAEL,
GENERAL BARON SAUNIER,
COLONEL BARON BODELIN,
CHEVALIER THERY,
JENIER,
JOUVE DE GUIBERT,
MR. WEBER,
and
COUNT MONTHION.

(I. VOL. II. p. 137.)

SELINGINSK—SIBERIA.

EDWARD STALLYBRASS.
WILLIAM SWAN,
ROBERT YUILLE.
} *Missionaries.*

"*Native Education.*—The attention of the brethren has been particularly directed, during

the last year, to the subject of native schools; to the establishment of which, great, and apparently insurmountable difficulties are opposed. These arise chiefly from insensibility to the value of education, the poverty of the people, the usefulness of their children in tending cattle, their migratory habits, and their religious prejudices. Throughout the whole of the Boriat tribes there are, perhaps, at present, not more than ten females who are able to read their own language. The brethren purpose endeavouring to interest the leading persons among the Boriats in favour of a plan of general education.

"For some considerable time a few native children have occasionally received instruction at the Mission-house. More recently, a few girls have attended to be taught the art of plaiting straw. They at the same time learn to read, a very uncommon attainment among the Boriat females. This plan seems to promise success.

"Mr. Yuille has two young Boriats under his tuition, both of whom are promising characters. One of them has been with him about three years, and the other has engaged to pursue his studies for a similar period. Mr. Stallybrass has also taken under his care another youth for the same term. It is hoped these

young men will eventually prove useful auxiliaries in the mission.

"*Native Worship.*—A small congregation has been collected chiefly among the Boriats, who live near the Mission-house, to whom the Gospel is preached, by Mr. Stallybrass, every Lord's-day. Their attention is encouraging. Mr. Stallybrass, however, finds, as Brainerd formerly did, 'that a few important truths need to be repeatedly impressed on their minds.' After preaching one day from Matt. v. 24. 28. he was not a little encouraged by hearing an aged man exclaim, 'It is not merely then what we do with our hands, (holding up his hands,) but bad thoughts also are offensive to God.'

"In communicating the Gospel to the Boriats, great difficulty arises from their being unacquainted with the written language, between which and the colloquial language a considerable difference exists.

"It is in contemplation to erect a small place of worship.

"*Itinerant visits to the Boriat Tribes.*—Mr. Stallybrass, in the early part of last summer, sojourned with his family, for a time, in the vicinity of the Chilok river, where he

availed himself of opportunities to distribute the Mongolian Scriptures, and to converse with the Boriats.

"A Lama, who gratuitously offered him the use of his own house, and behaved in a friendly manner, on his departure, requested he would visit him another year. This Lama apparently vacillates between his own religion and Christianity.

"Mr. Swan, during the greater part of last summer, sojourned in the country to the eastward of Selenginsk, where he distributed the Scriptures among the Boriats, and conversed with them as opportunities offered. He speaks in favourable terms of the chief, Chorinsky Taisha, who made many enquiries, apparently with great seriousness, on the subject of Christianity.

"A house, conveniently situated near the river Ona, has been purchased for the accommodation of the brethren, when they visit this populous part of the country.

"With regard to the spiritual results of their labours, they write with commendable diffidence and humility:—

"'As to the actual fruit of our labours, (say they,) it is not time for us yet to speak. Many individuals have acquired a considerable knowledge of Christianity, and upon whom

some favourable impressions seem to have been made; but before we can see more manifest indications of the spirit being poured out upon them from on high, it would not become us to speak of success.'

"*Proposed Printing Establishment.* — The printing press, forwarded from St. Petersburg, has been safely received at Silenginsk. It is probable a printer will shortly proceed there from the same city. The brethren anticipate important collateral advantages from this establishment, chiefly as it will give employment to a number of the natives, who will be thus brought more directly under the influence of the mission.

"*Translation of the Scriptures, &c.* — Messrs. Stallybrass and Swan are proceeding with the Mongolian version of the Old Testament. The latter has commenced the book of Joshua. Mr. Stallybrass's *Mongolian and English Lexicon* is in a state of considerable forwardness. He contemplates adding the Russ, as no Mongolian and Russ Lexicon exists."

Vide 30th Report of Missionary Society, pp. 94, 95, 96.

THE END.

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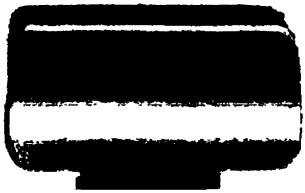
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